# REDUCTION OF OUT-OF-PLANE DISTORTION IN FILLET WELDED HIGH STRENGTH ALUMINUM

Robert W. Henry

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Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, California 93940

# REDUCTION OF OUT-OF-PLANE DISTORTION IN FILLET WELDED HIGH STRENGTH ALUMINUM

BY

Robert W. Henry

B.S., U.S. Coast Guard Academy (1969)

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at the

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#### Robert W. Henry

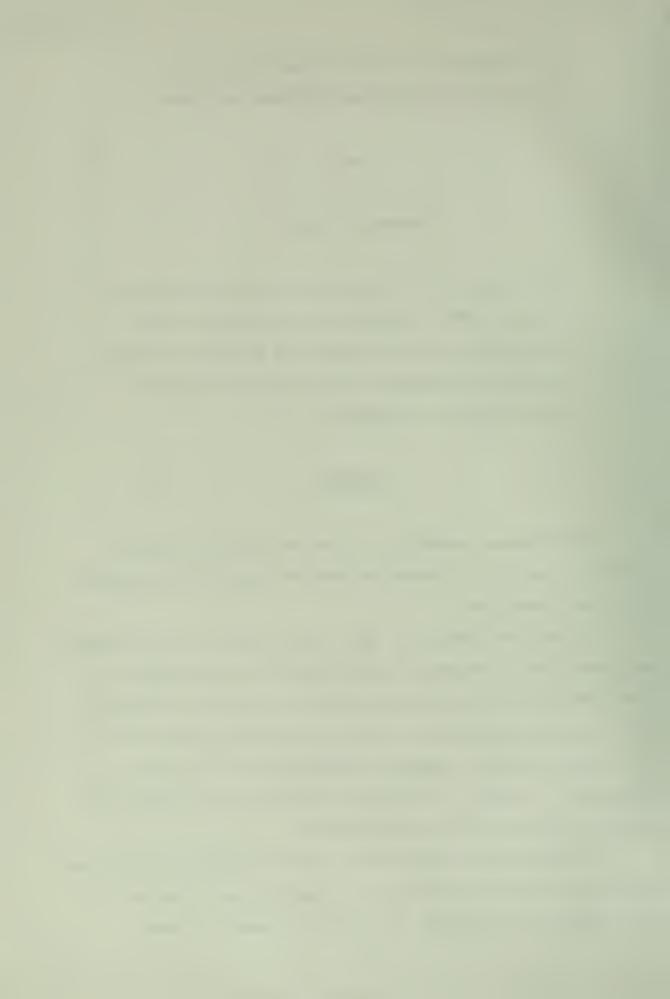
Submitted to the Department of Ocean Engineering in May, 1974, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Ocean Engineering and Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

#### ABSTRACT

Out-of-plane distortion caused by angular changes at fillet welds in aluminum structural panels was examined from two viewpoints.

In the first phase of this work a series of experiments was conducted to examine elastic-plastic prestraining of test specimens to be fillet welded as a means of reducing out-of-plane distortion. Data gathered from these tests was correlated with previous experiments in the use of aluminum. A guide in the use of elastic-plastic prestraining for 3/8" and 1/2" was developed.

In phase two of this work a two-dimensional program was adapted to the structural aluminum panels used in phase one and tested for accuracy. The program, based on pure



stress, was found to be inaccurate in predicting the behaviors of the fillet welded aluminum panels.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Koichi Masubuchi

Title: Professor of Naval Architecture



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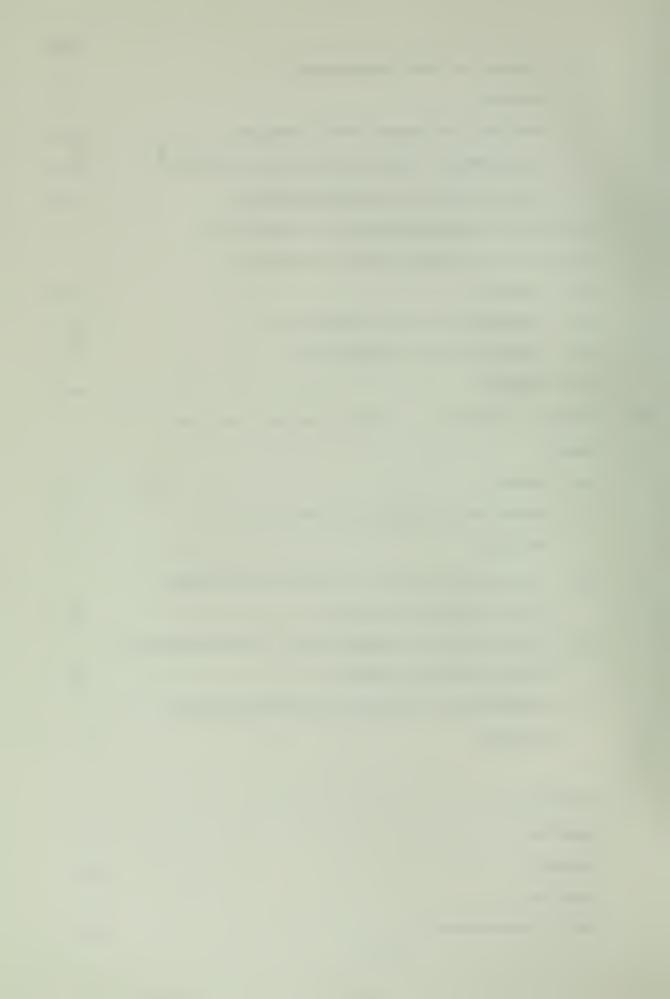


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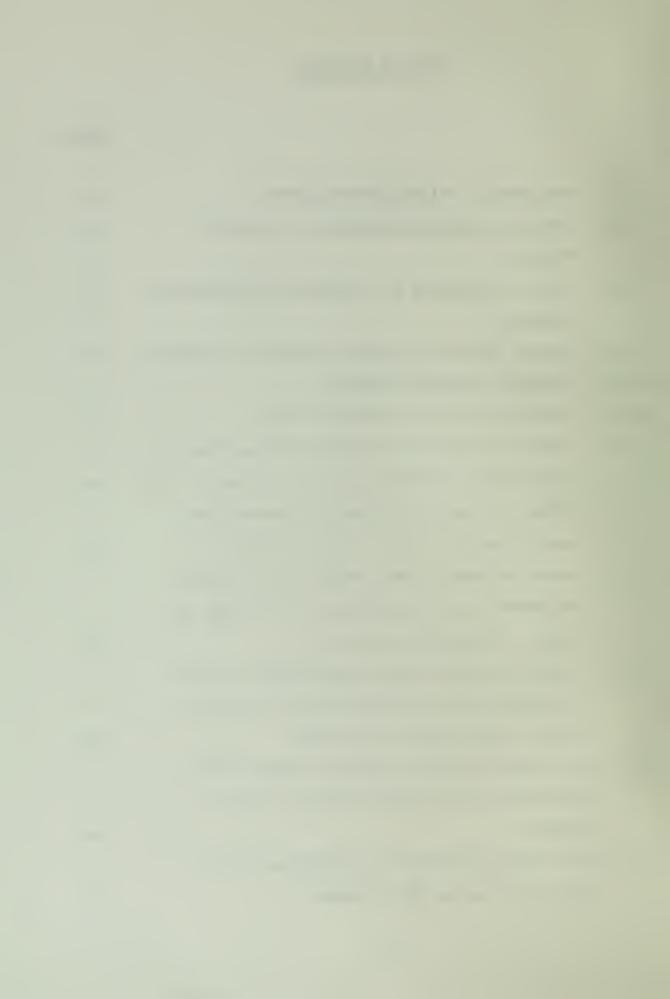
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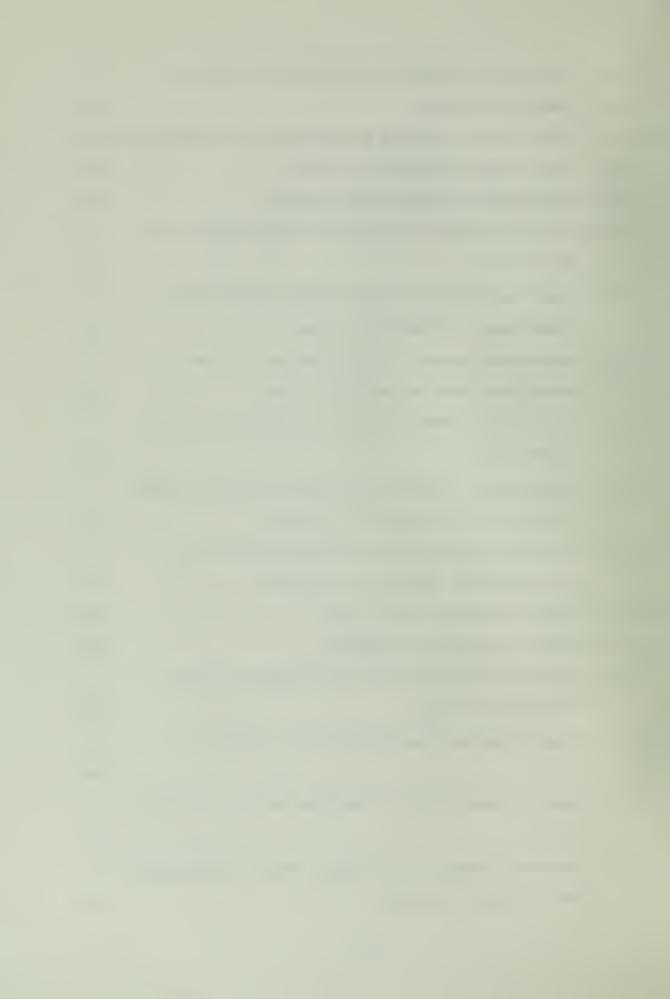


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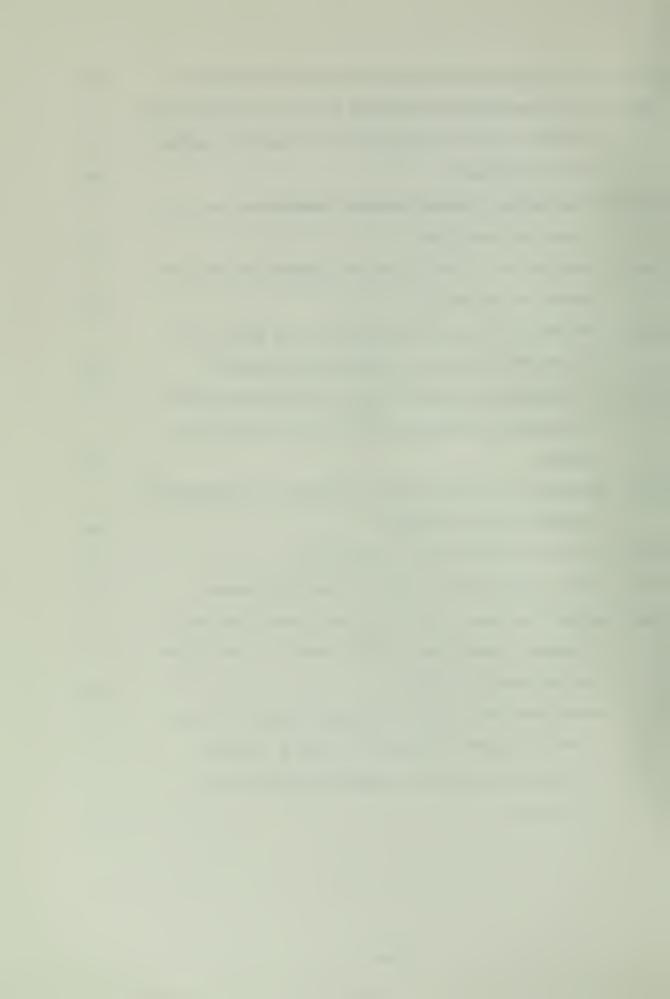
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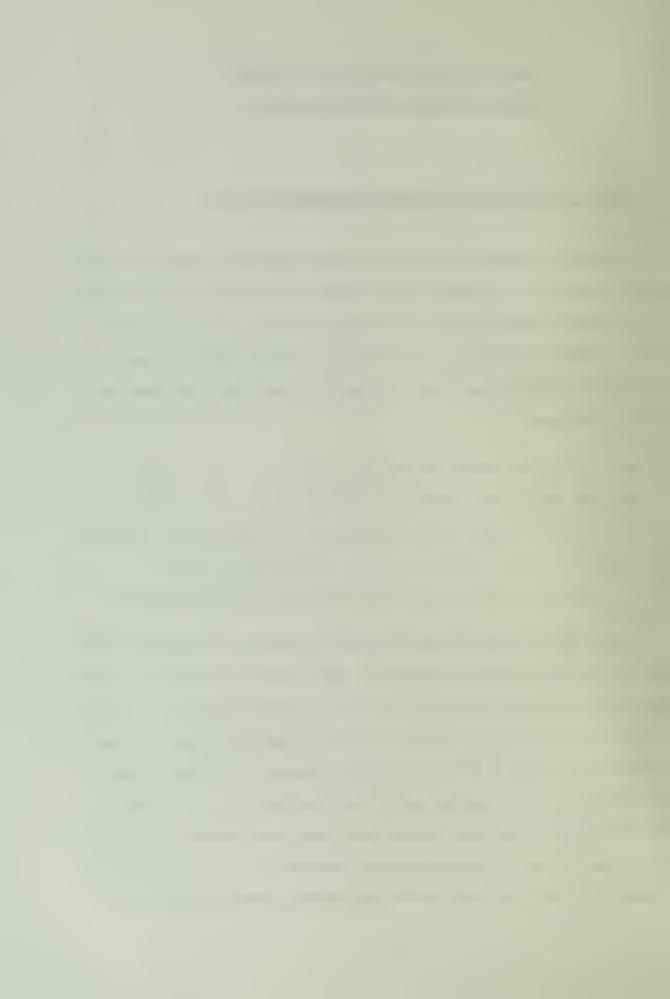
# 1.0 - AN INTRODUCTION TO WELDING HIGH STRENGTH ALUMINUM ALLOYS

#### 1.1 - Welding High Strength Aluminum Alloys

The ever increasing use of high strength aluminum in the fabrication of structures has in recent years accelerated due to a greater understanding, through research, of its potentials. Aluminum alloys, based on one of the Earth's most abundant minerals, have value primarily derived from several characteristics:

- a. a high strength to weight ratio,
- b. an excellent corrosion resistance,
- c. good strength and toughness at a wide range of temperatures (most notable at low temperatures), and
- d. the ability to form high strength weldable alloys. 1

Since it is well known that the properties required in an aluminum alloy weldment depend on the service condition of the structure, one must be very careful in predicting the expected loads, environmental constraints, life expectancy and reliability. Basically any welded high strength aluminum structure should have high strength coupled with good weldability. In many applications the material must have good resistance to corrosion and be free from stress-corrosion cracking (as in marine use). In specific applications notch toughness, good ductility and



adequate fatigue properties are also important.

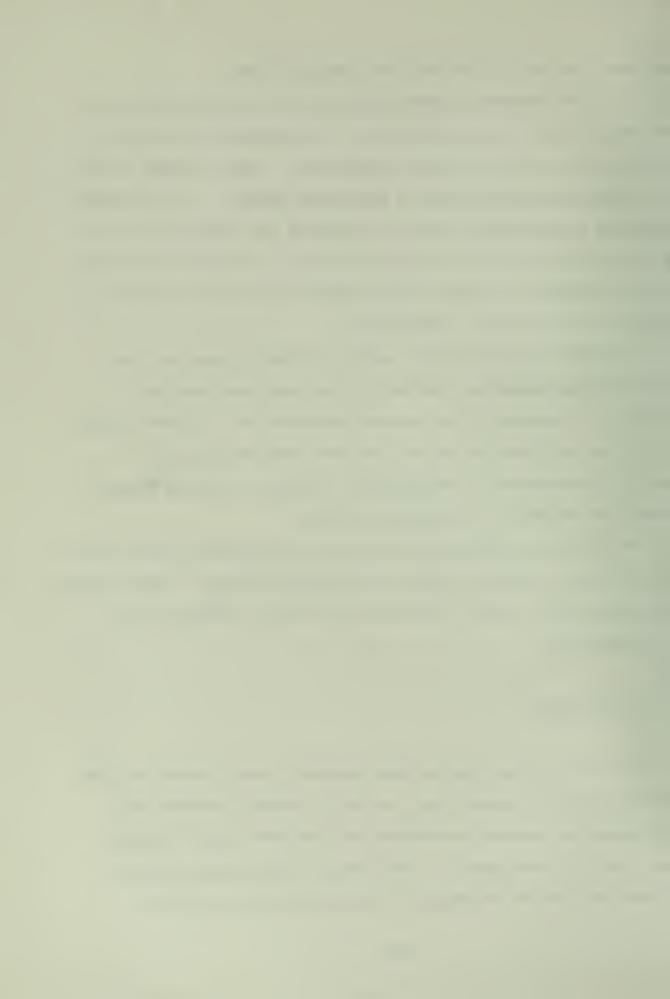
We have learned, though, that any one aluminum alloy cannot possess all these properties. High strength is usually bought at the price of poor weldability. High strength alloys are also often susceptible to corrosion attack. Any structure requiring high strength must be analysed and trade-offs must be evaluated to meet the required needs. To date the welding of high strength aluminum alloys offers one of the biggest problems in structural fabrication.

Aluminum and its alloys can be jointed by most of the forty welding processes defined by the American Welding Society. Obviously the process selection will depend primarily on the application as well as from considerations of strength requirement, configuration, quality, desired finish, number and thickness (or gage) of metal.

The welding methods which are most frequently used to join high strength aluminum alloys are discussed below. They include Gas Tungsten Arc (GTA), Gas Metal Arc (GMA), Electron Beam and Plasma Arc.

#### GTA Welding

The GTA process uses a high intensity heat source and has fluxless welding capability. An arc is struck between the nonconsumable tungsten electrode and the work piece (usually less than 1/8 inch gage). A helium or helium-argon mixture is used for the shielding gas to protect the arc and the



molten weld. This process is performed using either direct current straight polarity for good weld penetration and faster welding speed because the heat is concentrated at the work, or direct current reverse polarity for good arc-cleaning action. Traditionally, the method of GTA welding of aluminum has been with AC input power.

#### GMA Welding

This process uses a consumable wire electrode that coalesces with the base metal in a molten pool protected by an inert gas shield. The process uses direct current reverse polarity to take advantage of the cathodic cleaning action and high current densities for high disposition rate and fast welding speeds needed for welding heavier gages of aluminum. 3

#### Electron Beam Welding

This process is fairly new but has the advantage of a high strength weld, good joint efficiency, a narrow weld, and small heat affected zone. The welding is accomplished by bombarding the base piece with a dense stream of high-velocity electrons. No filler metal is required but the process must take place in an air evacuated chamber.

## Plasma Arc Welding

The process is basically a modification of the GTA



process. In Plasma Arc the arc is tightly constricted by means of a high velocity sheath of gas flowing around the arc making possible a higher concentration of energy (heat) at the weld site for greater weld penetration and weld speed.

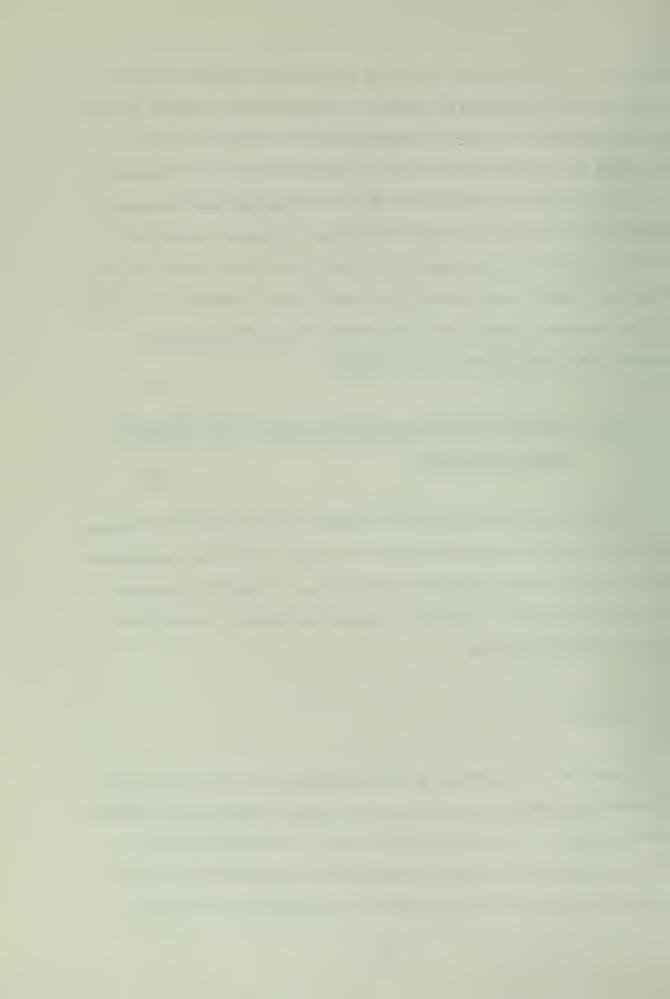
Although GTA and GMA are the most widely used welding techniques for high strength aluminum, electron beam and plasma arc offer advantages that can give them future significance. Laser beam techniques also have a promising future but at present lasers are used more for plate alignment before fabrication than for joining.

# 1.2 - Problems Associated with Welding High Strength Aluminum Alloys

Although the knowledge of welding high strength aluminum has been rapidly expanding there are many problems associated with it that still plague the industry. Briefly discussed below are cracking, porosity, stress corrosion, incomplete fusion, and distortion.

### Cracking

Cracking in aluminum alloy weldments can be classified by cracking above the solidus and cracking below the solidus. Cracking above the solidus line occurs in weld metal when sodidification has reached the point of continuity between adjacent crystals so that cooling and contraction produce



tensile stresses. This form of hot cracking can be minimized by the proper selection of weld filler metal.

On the other hand, cracking below the solidus line is the result of intermetallic compounds precipitating out during the cooling process causing a decrease in grain boundary strength when the alloys are depleted at the outer cystal boundaries. This form of cracking is dependent on composition, microstructure, and the degree of restraint imposed on the cooling weld.

#### Porosity

In general, porosity in weldments is formed by the entrapment of evolved gases in the solidifying weld metal through the mechanism of nucleation and growth. The weld defects due to porosity become more and more important as higher strength alloys are developed. Experimental results indicate that the ultimate tensile strength of a transverse weld specimen decreases with increasing porosity. Porosity has also been found to decrease a metal's ductility and fatigue life. Investigators feel that hydrogen or water contaminants are the major cause of weld porosity.

### Stress Corrosion

This problem, not unique to welding high strength aluminum alloys, is a complex interaction of corrosive attack



and sustained stress which results in cracking. The interaction is initiated if the material is susceptible to selective corrosion along a continuous path where irregularities are present such as a grain boundary (i. e., weld path). If the particular piece is in tension, stress corrosion cracking can occur. The problem is doubly complicated when you examine the numerous ways that simple selective corrosion can occur.

#### Incomplete Fusion

Incomplete fusion arises mainly from the strong affinity of aluminum for oxygen. This oxide tends to persist as a film that interferes with the wetting action necessary for weld fusion and causes a failure of fused weld metal to coalesce with the adjacent base metal or with the previously deposited weld metal.

### Residual Stress and Shrinkage Distortion

One of the most serious problems facing the fabrication engineer is the residual stress and distortion induced during the welding of an aluminum structure. There are, in general, three reasons for this problem that make control of weld distortion in aluminum more critical than with steel--

a. Aluminum, having a higher heat conductivity will have the welding heat conducted in wider areas.

Expansion and contraction of aluminum is much more



pronounced than in steel.

- b. Aluminum has a greater coefficient of thermal expansion than steel.
- c. Aluminum alloys have lower yield strengths producing larger plastic zones near the weld than steel.

See Table 1.2.1 for a comparative study of steel and aluminum.

During welding complex strains in the weld metal and annexed base metal region are induced during the non-uniform heating and cooling phase. Their respective stresses combine and react to produce internal forces that can cause bending, rotation and buckling. Collectively they are known as welding shrinkage distortion. The induced stresses are usually accompanied by plastic upsetting and even material yield in some instances. Residual stresses and the resulting distorions due to welding are effected in varying degrees by base plate and weld metal material properties, specimen length, plate thickness, welding process and welding sequence.

The distortions found in fabricated structures are caused by three fundamental dimensional changes that are known to occur during the welding process; transverse shrinkage occuring perpendicular to the weld line, longitudianl shrinkage which occurs parallel to the weld line and out-of-plane angular distortion where rotation occurs around the weld line. These fundamental distortions are shown in Figure 1.2.1. Distortions which can occur in practical weldments are far more complex as can be seen in Figure 1.2.2.

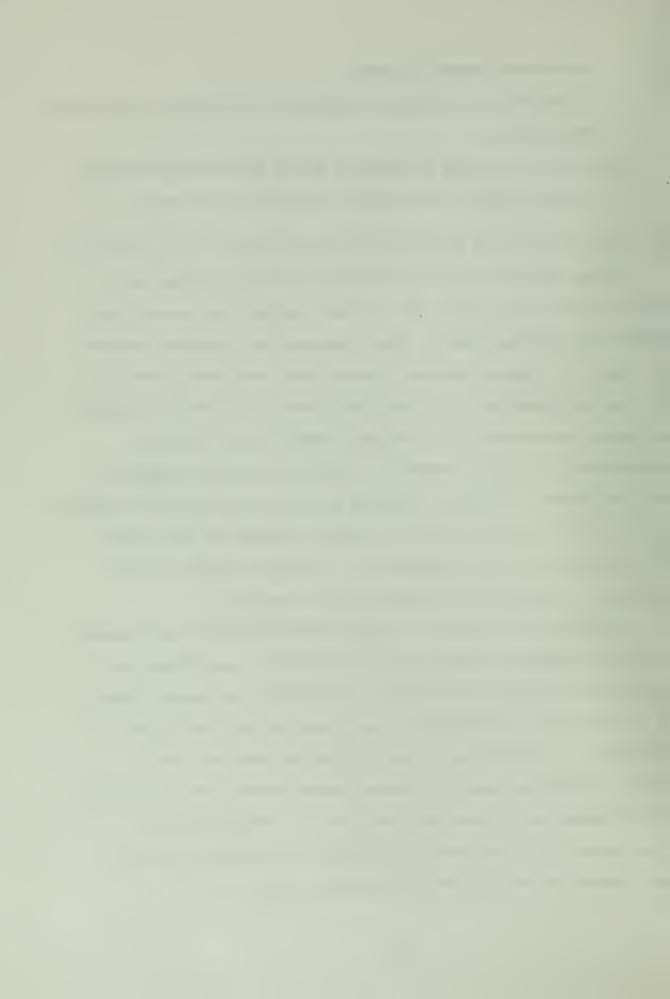
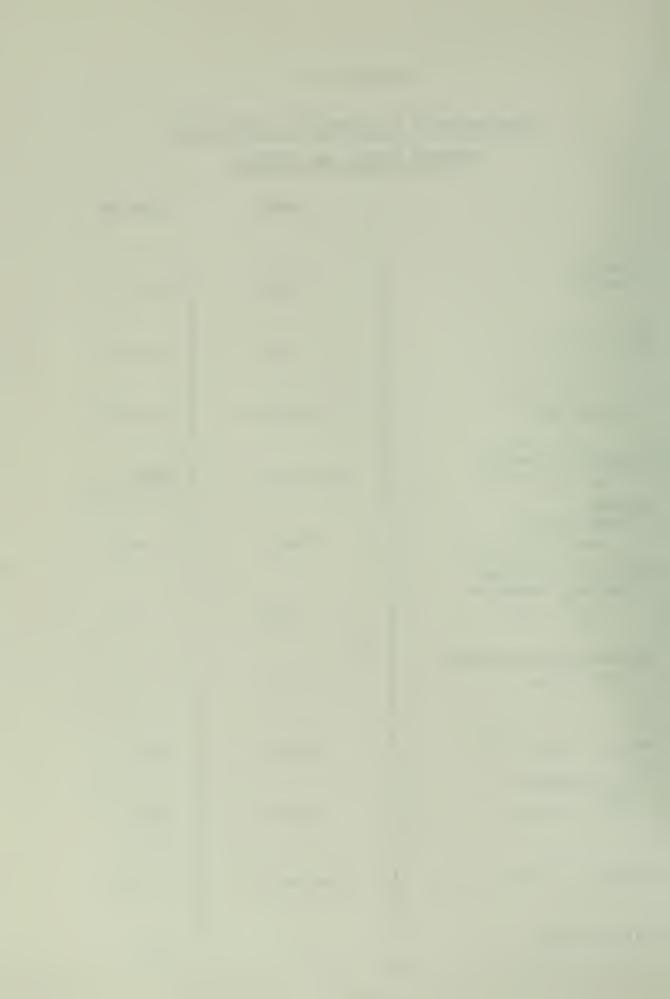


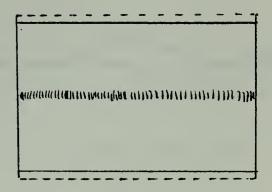
TABLE 1.2.1

# COMPARISON OF SOME PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

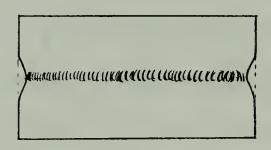
# BETWEEN STEEL AND ALUMINUM

	STEEL	ALUMIN <b>UM</b>
Density 3 lb/in	0.284	0.097
E, 10 <sup>6</sup> psi	30	10.2
ys, 10 <sup>3</sup> psi	35 - 150	30 - 50
Strength to weight ys/ X 10 <sup>3</sup> in Thermal	123 - 530	300 - 500
Conductivity , BTU/h/ft <sup>2</sup> /ft/°F	26•2 ·	130
Coefficient Linear Thermal Expansion , 10 <sup>-6</sup> / OF	3.8	13
Electrical Resistivity 10 <sup>-6</sup> /in	9.7	2.7
Melting point, OF	2800	1220
Melting point of oxide F (FeO, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	2400	3700
Fatigue, 10 <sup>3</sup> psi	½ of uts - 30	10 - 20
Poisson Ratio	•29	•33





TRANSEVERSE SHRINKAGE

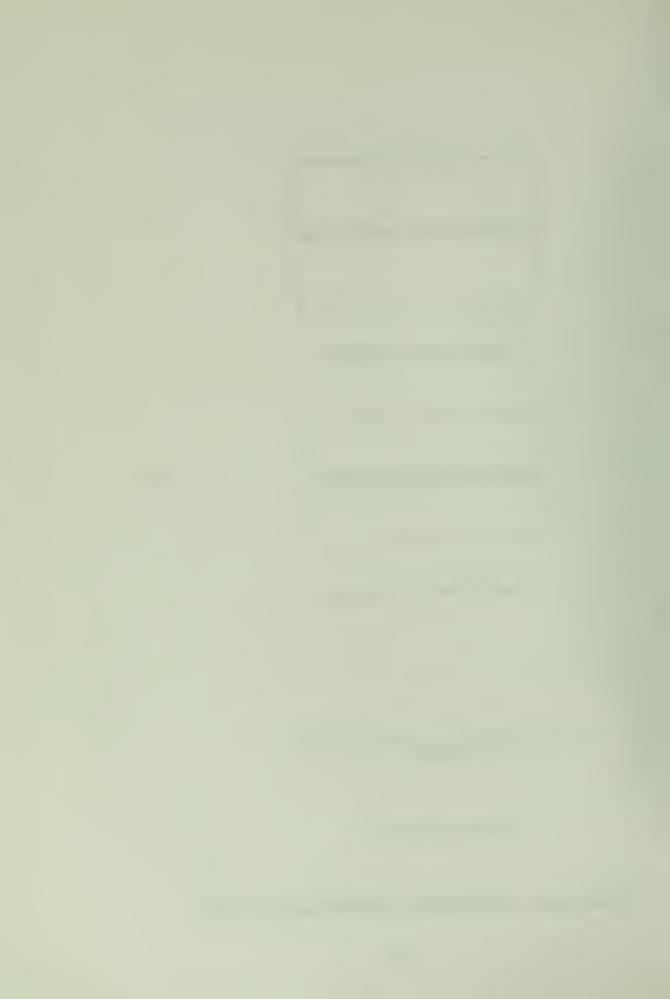


LONGITUDINAL SHRINKAGE



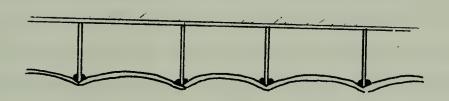
ANGULAR -ROTATION

FIGURE 1.2.1 FUNDAMENTAL WELDING DISTORTIONS<sup>6</sup>





BUCKLING DISTORTION



ANGULAR CORRIGATION FAILURE



COMBINATION OF LONGITUDINAL
AND ANGULAR DISTORTION

FIGURE 1.2.2

COMPLEX WELDING DISTORTIONS IN PRACTICAL WELDMENTS



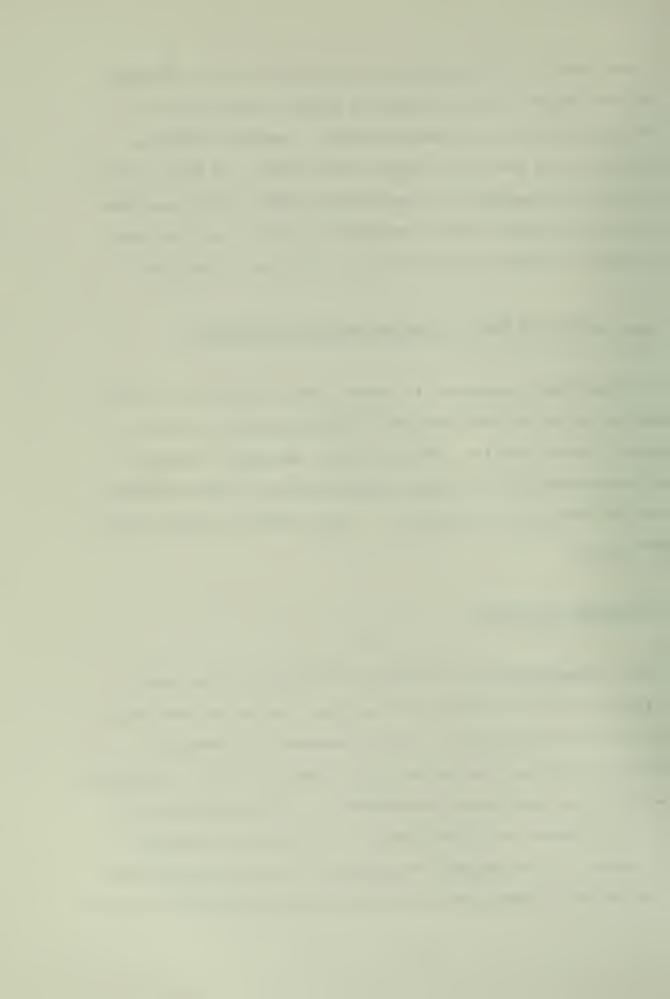
Longitudinal and transverse distortions can be designed out of structures and accounted for before fabrication by making allowances for proper shrinkage. Angular changes, particularily in the area of the fillet weld, are more difficult to make allowances for and usually have to be corrected by some type of post welding operation or by a welding operation which includes procedures for distortion reduction.

#### 1.3 - Methods Used to Reduce Welding Distortion

Methods used presently to reduce weld distortion include proper selection of the specimen, welding process, welding sequence, forced cooling, stress-relief annealing, peening, flame straightening, vibratory stress-relief, electromagnetic hammer and external constrains. Teach method is briefly discussed below.

#### Specimen Selection

Many investigations have been conducted in both steel and aluminum into the effects of various factors on the magnitude and distribution of residual stresses in welds as a function of specimen variables (i.e., length, width, thickness, base-plate, and weld metal properties). Each parameter can directly influence the distribution of residual stresses in a test piece. It is beyond the scope of this work to describe each variable in detail but since we are concerned with angular



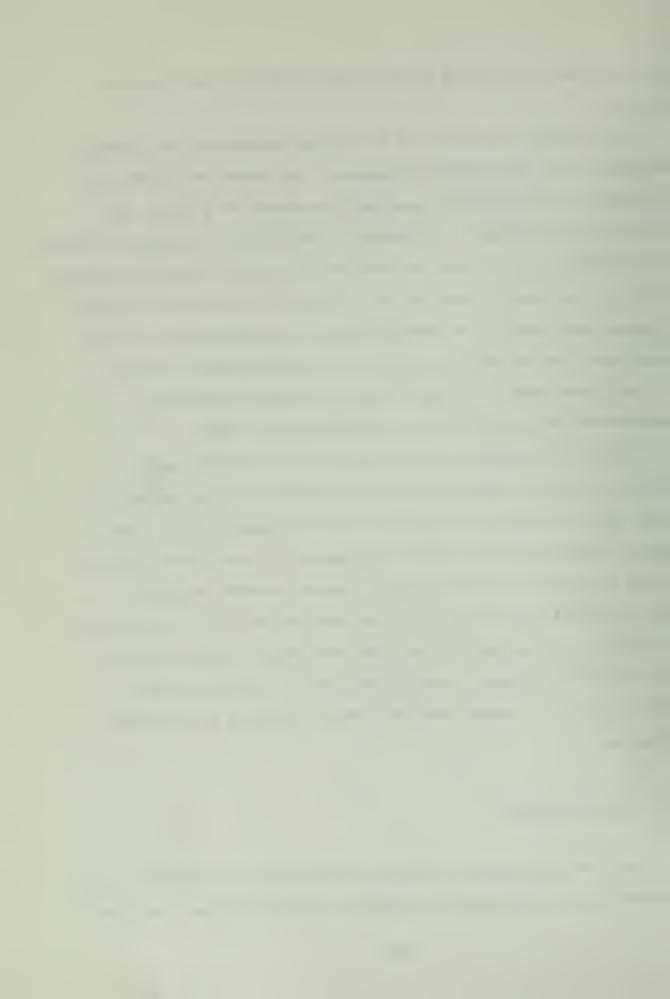
out-of-plane distortion we can review several basic observations.

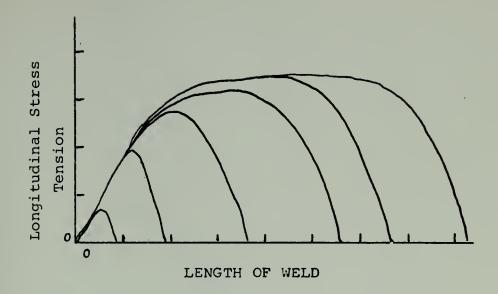
The length and width of a material determine the general magnitudes of its residual stresses. As length or width are increased the residual stress will increase to a point and then remain constant. In general, longitudinal residual stresses must be zero at both ends of the weld and high tensile stresses exist in the central regions of the weld. Transverse residual stresses are tensile in central areas and compressive in the areas near the plate ends with the maximum stress occuring at the plate ends. Figure 1.3.1 has been included to demonstrate this effect in a non-dimensional form.

Angular distortion as a function of thickness with assumed infinite length and width measurements describes a curve that in general takes the form of Figure 1.3.2. Low angular distortion for small thicknesses is attributed mainly to the fact that the heat input conducts almost uniformly out away from the weld with little variation in the thickness direction. Low angular distortion for thick plates results from a large stiffness coefficient for the thicker plates enabling them to resist bending moments induced by residual stresses.

## Welding Process

Welding processes now used in fabrication of high strength aluminum alloy structures in general produce similar residual





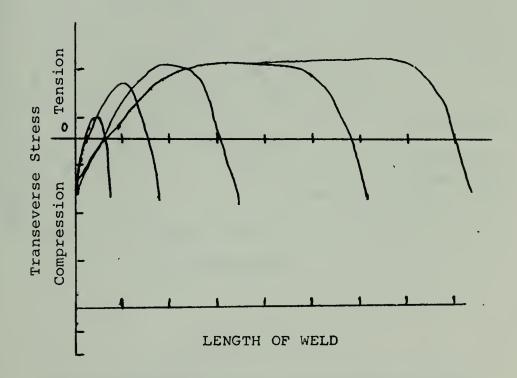


FIGURE 1.3.1

RESIDUAL STRESSES VS. LENGTH\*WIDTH VARIABLES (GENERAL)



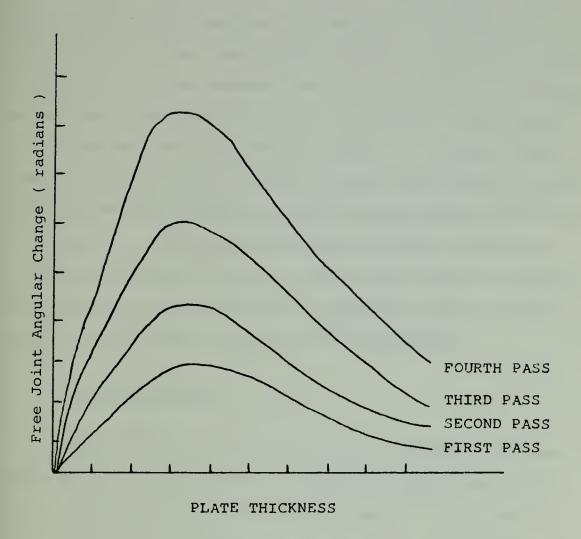


FIGURE 1.3.2

ANGULAR DISTORTION VERSUS THICKNESS (GENERAL)



Stresses. They include shielded metal arc, submerged arc, GMA and GTA welding. We can, though, be general and observe that residual stress is an indirect function of welding heat input and as we use processes that have high heat inputs we can expect greater residual distortions, not to mention reduced ultimate strengths. The Marshall Space Flight Center investigators found that reduced heat input and narrow weld-metal areas gave higher weld strengths and smaller distortions.

Satisfactory electron-beam welds in aluminum alloys require significantly lower heat inputs than either GMA or GTA, but because the electron-beam process must be done in a vacuum it is presently restricted to small components.

Japan is presently testing a large electron-beam installation used in the fabrication of aluminum spheres approximately eighty feet in diameter for LNG tankers.

## Welding Sequence

Kihara <sup>10</sup> observed that as far as residual stresses were concerned, the effect of welding sequence had only a minor influence on longitudinal stresses. On the other hand, transverse residual stresses were largely affected by welding sequence. Welding sequence can be fundamentally related to three standpoints -

a. classification by the relation between welding direction as a whole and the welding direction of each block,



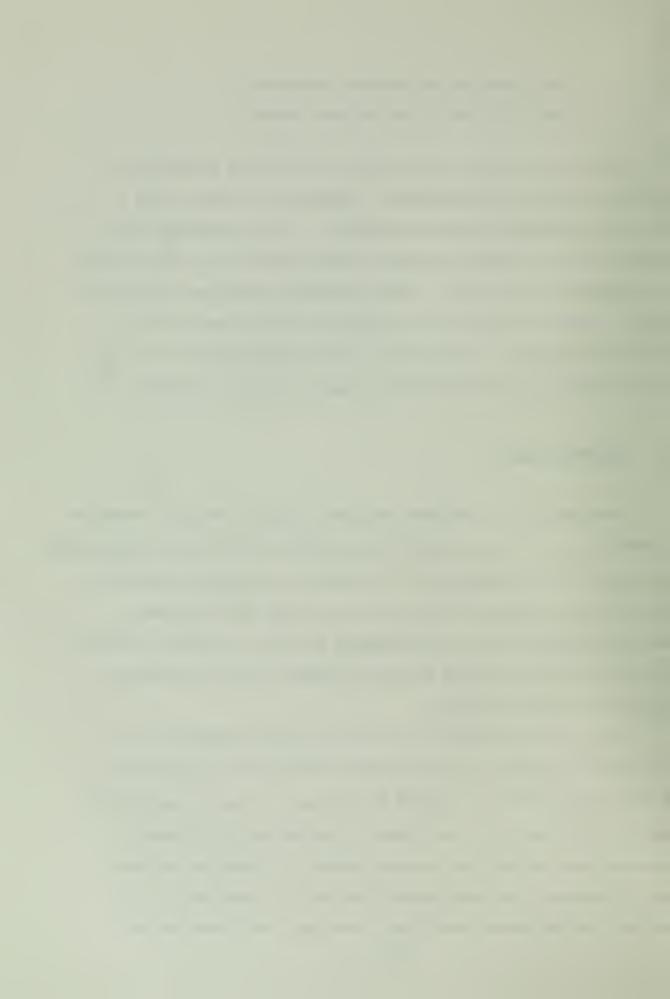
- b. classification by welding direction,
- c. classification by multi-pass method.

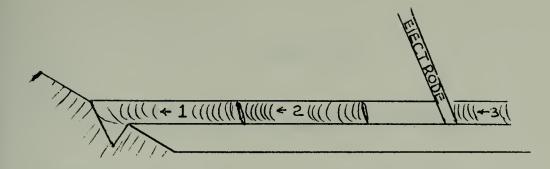
Many investigators have studied the three parameters above in various combinations. Figure 1.3.3 shows only a few of the welding sequence methods. It was observed that differences in welding sequence caused significant difference in transverse distortion. Block welding sequences were generally found to cause less shrinkage than the multi-layer sequence approach. Symmetrical welding sequences were found to generate less non-uniformity than multi-pass methods. 10

#### Forced Cooling

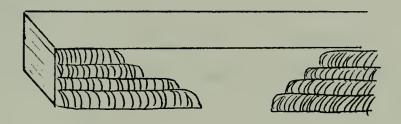
Previously we discussed residual distortion as a function of heat input. Since maximum temperature and time at temperature are known to be significant in measuring effective weld heat input we can speculate that by controlling the weld heat temperature and time at temperature we can, in effect, control such factors as ultimate tensile strength, yield strength, elongation and distortion.

This can be achieved in one way by the absorbtion of heat from the base plate by forced cooling with cryogenic liquids such as CO<sub>2</sub> or liquid nitrogen. As can be seen from Tables 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 all forms of altering the thermal patterns were effective to some degree in reducing warpage and distortion, the most effective being a combination of cooling and follow-up auxillary heating. This method has





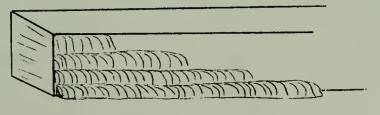
### A. BACKSTEP SEQUENCE



## B. BLOCK SEQUENCE



C. BUILD-UP SEQUENCE



D. CASCADE SEQUENCE

FIGURE 1.3.3

DIFFERENT WELDING SEQUENCES

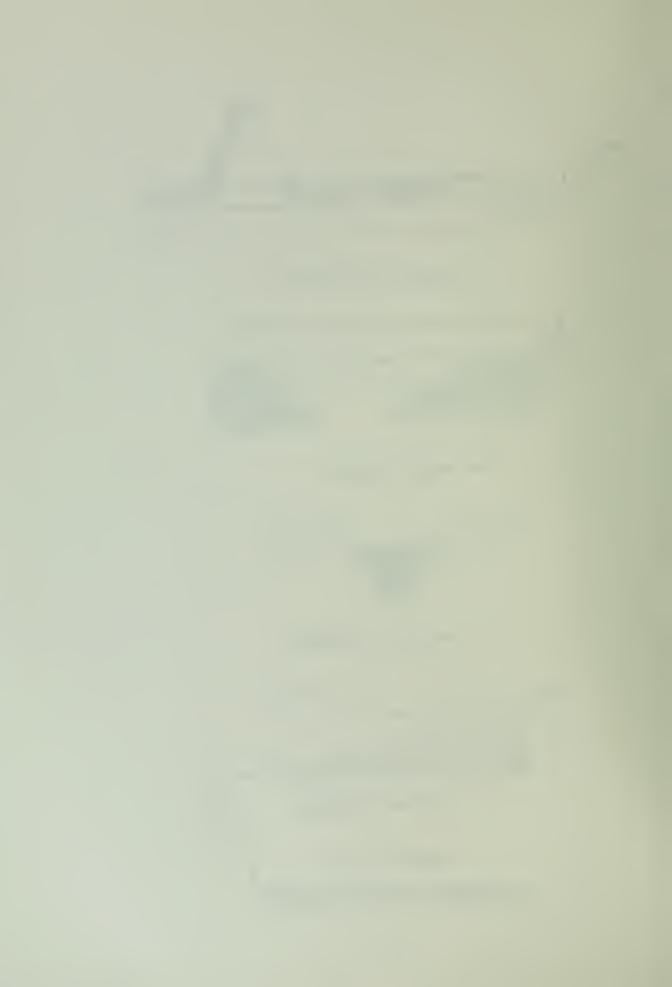


TABLE 1.3.1

# EFFECT OF THERMAL PATTERNS ON WARPAGE 3

Principle Factors

Warpage in Degrees

Producing Thermal

Pattern

	Ma	Maximum		Minimum		Typical	
	Bow	Peak	Bow	Peak	Bow	Pea <b>k</b>	
Unchilled Chilled	08	+ 1.6	0	0	- 0.4	+ 1.2	
only-front side Chilled	- 1.2	. + 3 <b>.</b> 5	0	0	- 0.8	+ 1.2	
only-back side Chilled and	- 0.8	3 + 0 <b>.</b> 6	0	0	- 0.8	+ 0.6	
auxilliary heat	+ 0.3	- 0.3	0	0 .	+ 0.2	0	

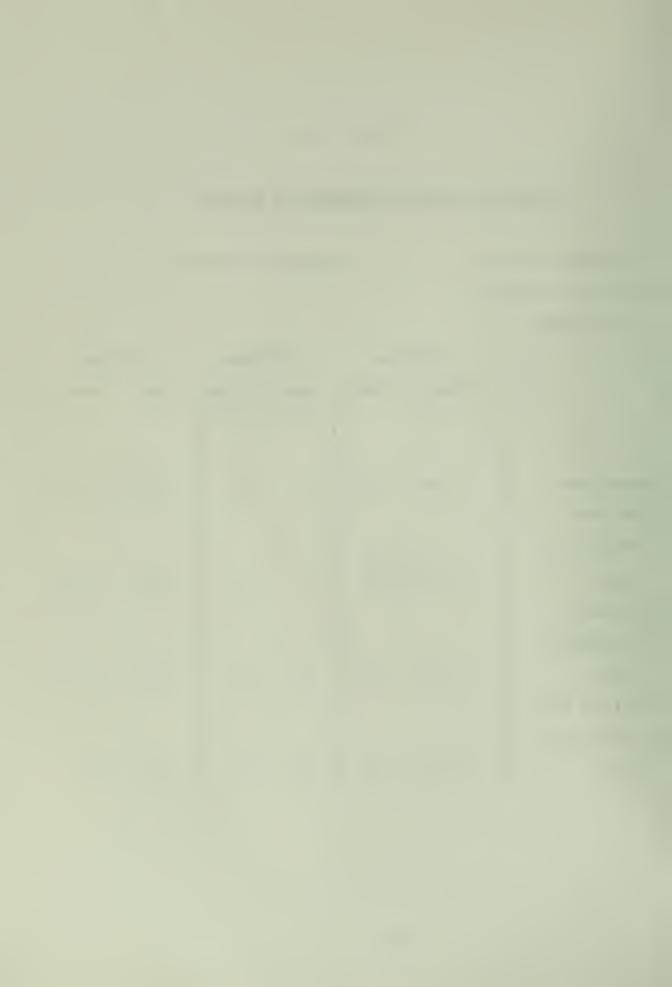


TABLE 1.3.2

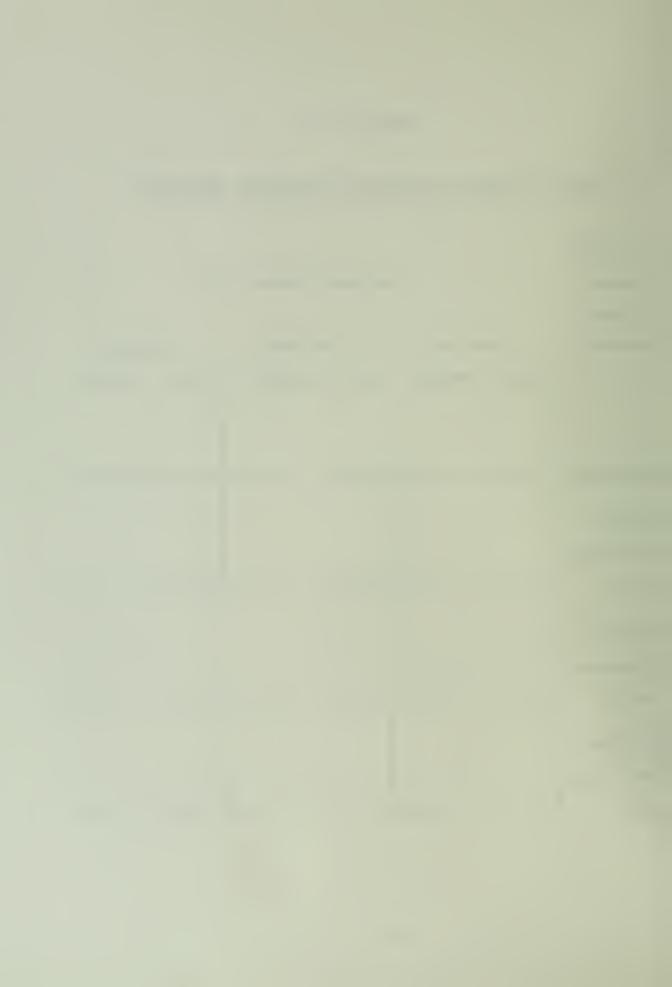
# EFFECT OF THERMAL PATTERNS ON RESIDUAL STRESSES 3

Principle

Thermal Residual Stress (PSI)

Pattern

Factors	Maximum		Minimum		Typical	
	Long.	Trans.	Long.	Trans.	Long. Trans.	
Unchilled	+22.5 K	-12.3 K	+17.6 K	- 3.0 K	+21.0 K - 7.0 K	
Chilled						
only-front						
side	+22.5 K	- 8.0 K	+12.2 K	1.6 K	+12.0 K - 7.5 K	
Chilled						
only-back						
side	+20.3 K	- 7.8 K	+11.9 K	- 4.0 K	+15.0 K - 5.0 K	
Chilled,						
auxilliary						
heat	+ 9.2 K	-12.6 K	+ 1.1 K	+ .8 K	+ 3.0 K - 2.0 K	



been found to reduce residual stresses by as much as 95%. It can be noted that forced altering of the thermal patterns of a weld by cryogenic cooling also increased the material's tensile yield strength by about 15% and reduced porosity (to a lesser extent).

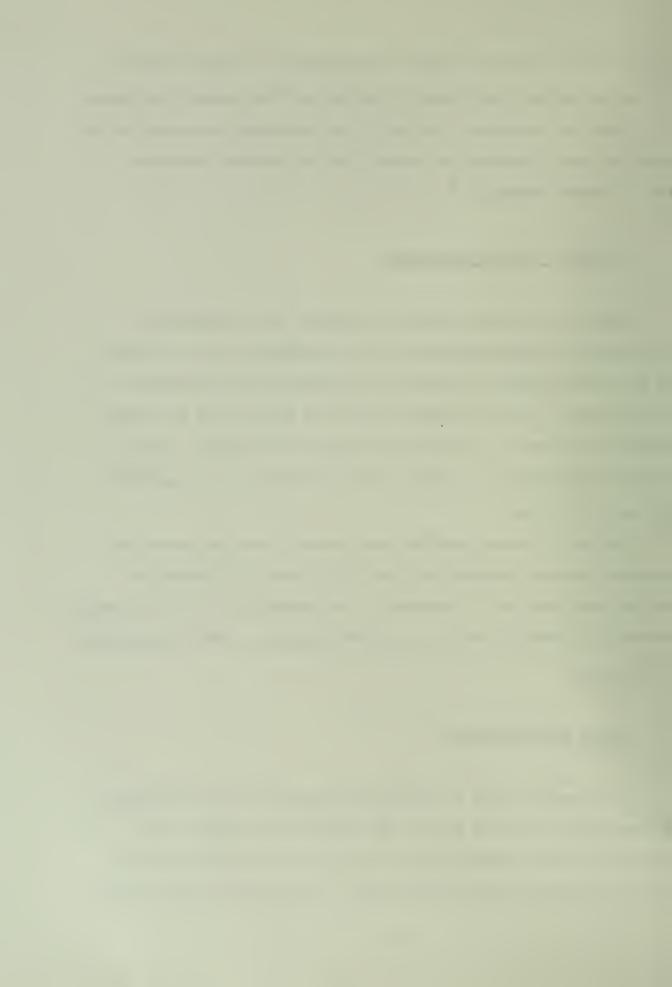
#### Stress - Relief Annealing

Just as cold work induced stresses are relieved by annealing, residual stresses due to welding can be relieved in the same manner. By proper annealing the microscopic grain number, size and growth rate are controlled to reduce induced stresses. In the same manner as cryogenic cooling, proper tempering of a weld's thermal cycle can be used to reduce distortion.

For both forced cooling and stress - relief, annealing optimum thermal patterns suitable for specific weldments can be developed by a combination of theoretical and empirical methods or through newly developed computer-aided programming techniques.

## Flame Straightening

This method used in reducing distortion is universally accomplished with the use of an oxyacetylene flame for essentially the application of heat to a localized area of metal to cause dimensional changes. The three basic factors



influencing flame straightening techniques as discussed by R. Holt 11 are the following:

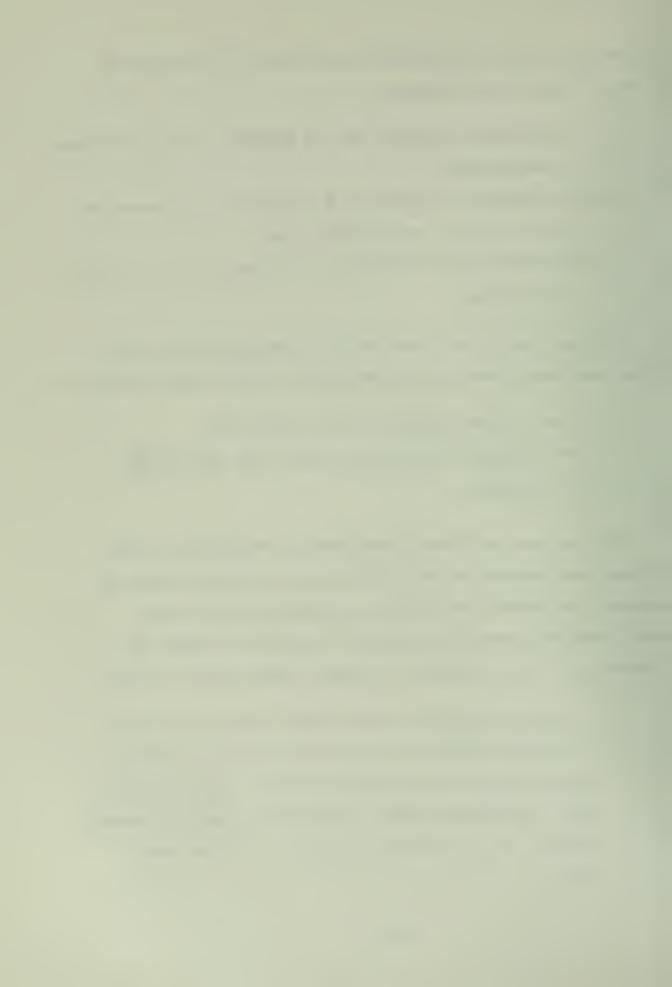
- a. the thermal expansion of the material with an increase in temperature;
- b. the variation of the yield strength of the material with increasing temperature; and,
- c. the behavior of the modulus of elasticity at elevated temperatures.

In practice, three types of flame straightening techniques are used, usually, in combination with water quenching--

- a. line heating parallel to the weld line,
- b. line heating on the back side of the weld line,
- c. spot heating.

The analysis of flame straightening techniques is not a simple one because of the many variables involved such as boundary conditions, dimensions, temperatures used and their location, quenching methods, and initial degree of distortion. We can comment on several observations though:

- a. water quenching of flame heated material achieves a greater removal of distortion than air cooling;
- b. spot heating is less effective than line heating;
- c. high temperature flame straightening has detrimental effects on the material properties of the base metal.



For closer control of heat input to the work piece several authors have suggested using induction heating or plasma arc torches.

#### Vibratory Stress Relief

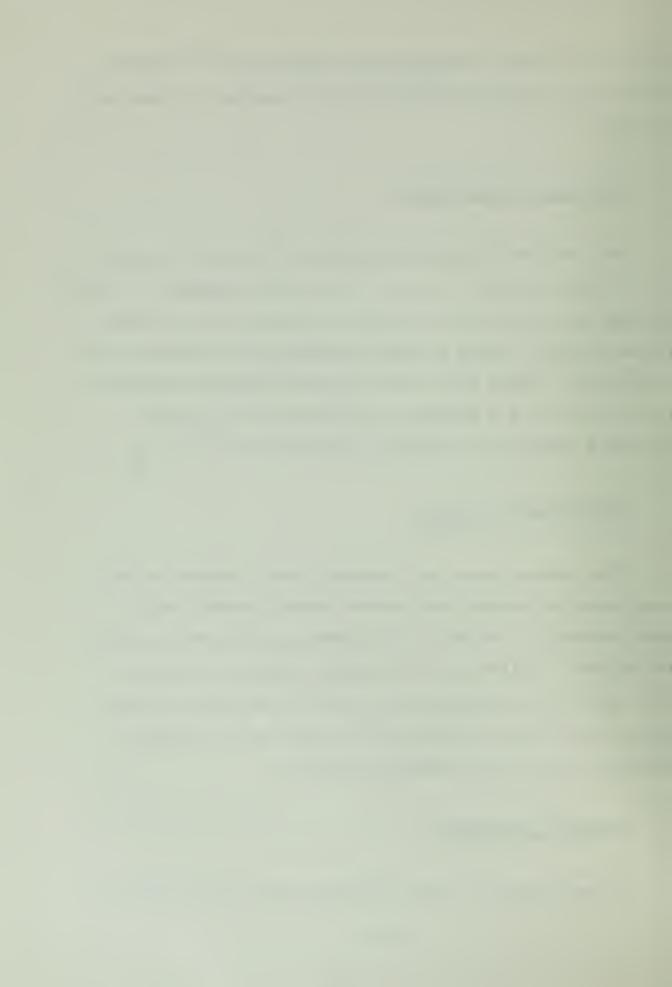
This method of distortion removal is simple in concept and involves little in the way of expensive equipment. During cooling the test piece is forced to vibrate at its resonant frequency for a length of time dependent on the weight of the work piece. During this time, the low frequency vibrations (0 to 100 c. p. s.) induce a realignment of the lattice structure reducing the residual stress level. 13, 14

#### Electromagnetic Hammer

This system relies on a magnetic field induced in the base plate to increase the plate's kinetic energy during metal forming. A rapid and predictable acceleration of the deformation is allowed and distortion reduction results. This method was satisfactorily tested on the Saturn rocket system and is being evaluated for marine use at Avondale Shipyard, Inc. in New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### External Constraints

In most practical work of fabricating welded structures



external constraints are normally used to reduce distortion. By the selection of appropriate strong-backs, jigs, clamps and rollers, investigators  $^{5}$ ,  $^{6}$ ,  $^{7}$ ,  $^{10}$ ,  $^{12}$ ,  $^{15}$  have found that induced distortions can be reduced.

# 

The initial thrust of this thesis is the reduction of out-of-plane distortion in a one pass double fillet welded "tee" of high strength aluminum by elastic-plastic prestraining. There is little recorded evidence that much analysis of out-of-plane distortion was done before 1950. In the last thirty-five years a great effort has been spent to reduce out-of-plane distortion in steel by various methods including elastic-plastic prestraining. <sup>16</sup> Today many steel fabrications are constructed using external constraints of one form or another. However, as in most problems associated with the use of aluminum, experimentation in out-of-plane distortion has been slow. Chapter 2 of this work is devoted to expanding our knowledge of aluminum fabrication.

# 1.5 - Computer Aided Analysis in the Prediction of Out-of-plane Weld Distortion in High Strength Aluminum

With the advent of the computer man has been able to



adopt computer-aided techniques in solving problems that formerly involved extensive experimentation combined with complex theoretical and analytical follow-up work. one-dimensional computer programs have given way to n-dimensional, finite element programs that can solve problems previously far too complex to tackle. With a suitable computer program, an investigator can reduce the number of actual experiments he must perform to a minimum, and rely on computer simulations to provide the main bulk of information. the author's intention in the second half of the work to tie together several functioning computer programs now at M. I. T. into a reliable package that can accurately simulate the outof-plane deformation that occurs in fillet welded high strength aluminum. If successful, this program shall accurately simulate the exact welding procedures used in an actual test model of a single pass, double fillet welded "tee". investigation shall be restrained to one- and two-dimensional programs.



# 2.0 - ELASTIC-PLASTIC PRESTRAINING OF HIGH-STRENGTH ALUMINUM ALLOY DURING FILLET WELDING TO REDUCE OUT-OF-PLANE DISTORTION

### 2.1 - General

The objective of this chapter is to develop a technique of elastic-plastic prestraining of flat plate aluminum
alloy to reduce out-of-plane distortion from fillet welding.
Through literary research it was determined that the significant variables are degree of prestraining (i.e., amount
of induced curvature), plate thickness, plate span and
length, welding process (including parameters), and number
of passes. By using a uniform plate span and length, and
relying on gas metal arc welding with the parameters specified by the material being welded, the number of variables
are reduced to the degree of prestraining, plate thickness,
and number of passes.

Once these parameters have been exercised and functional relationships developed, the results will be corrlated into a form suitable for incorporation into standard fabrication methods (a shipyard, for instance). This technique has already been done for steel. 16

# 2.2 - Preparation of the Experiment

# Constraining jig

Figure 2.2.1 shows schematically the method of



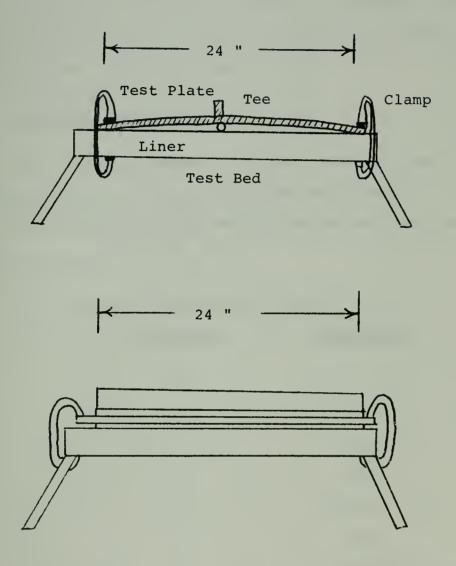
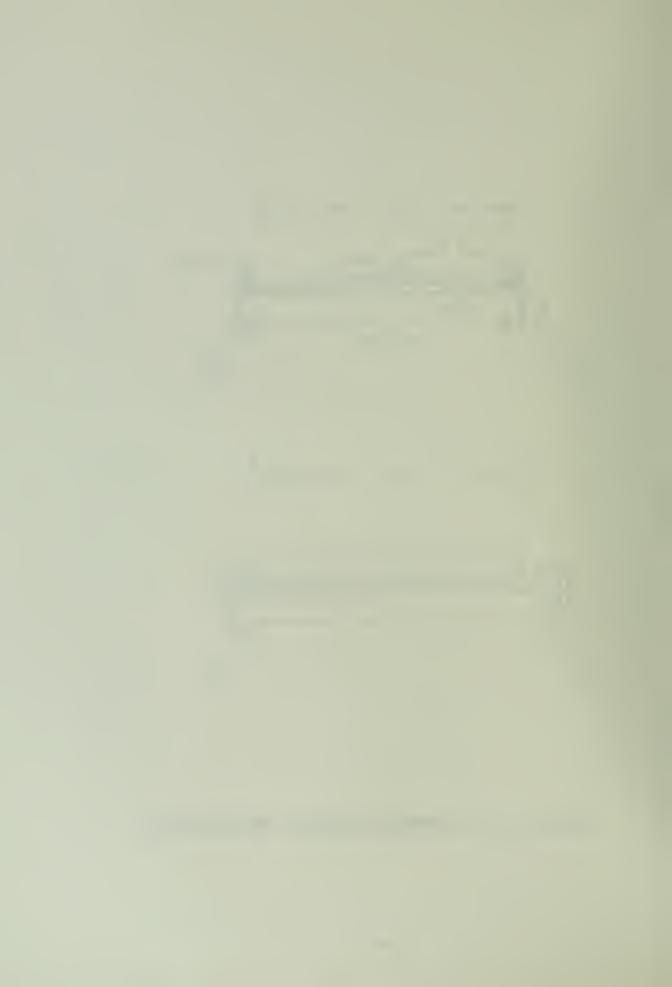


FIGURE 2.2.1 SCHEMATIC PICTORIAL OF TEST SETUP



prestraining used in this exercise. Note that the clamps only hold the bottom plate tips to the table and do not force them to be tangent. The round bar is placed under the plate along the the longitudinal centerline (also the weld line) to induce reverse curvature counteracting the out-of-plane distortion from welding.

### Material and Material Properties

5456 aluminum-magnesium alloy plate was donated by ALCOA and used for this particular experiment.

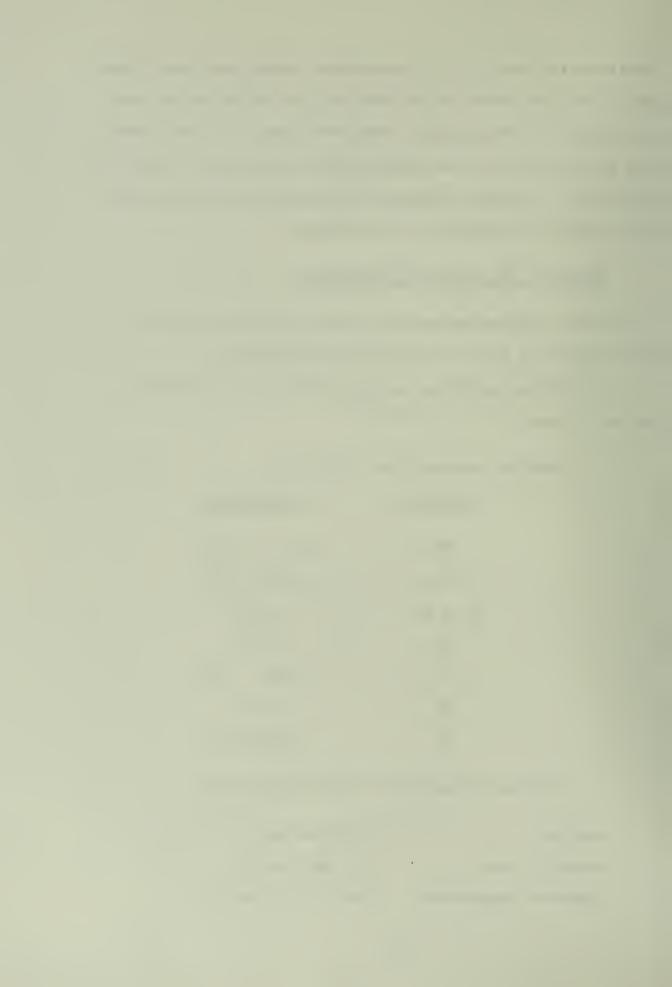
The characteristics and properties of the material are as follows:  $^{17}$ ,  $^{18}$ ,  $^{19}$ ,  $^{20}$ 

#### 1. Chemical composition (typical)

<u>Elements</u> <u>Percentag</u>			
Mg	4.7 - 5.5		
Mn	.50 - 1.0		
Si + Fe	.40		
Zn	<b>.</b> .25		
Cr	.0520		
Ti	•20		
A1	Remainder		

### 2. Physical properties (room temperature)

density	.096 lbm/in <sup>3</sup>
specific heat	.23 BTU/1bm <sup>O</sup> F
liquidus temperature	1060 °F - 1180 °F



thermal conductivity .185  $\times$  10<sup>-2</sup> BTU/in sec <sup>o</sup>F thermal diffusivity 8.35  $\times$  10<sup>-2</sup> in<sup>2</sup>/sec

### 3. Mechanical properties (room temperature)

modulus of elasticity	10.2	Х	10 <sup>6</sup>	psi
modulus of rigidity	3.75	х	10 <sup>6</sup>	psi
min. tensile strength	42	Х	103	psi
min. yield strength	37	Х	103	psi
Poissons ratio		•	33	

The filler metal applicable for this type of welding was 5556 and has the following chemical composition:

Element	Percentage		
Mg	4.7 - 5.5		
Mn	.50 - 1.0		
Si + Fe	40		
Zn	• 25		
Cr	.0520		
Cu	.10		
Al	.94		

## Test Specimen

All test specimens were 24" by 24". Table 2.2.1 details the specimen parameters by plate model number. Thicknesses of .250", .375", and .50" were used because they had the greatest susceptibility to welding distortion.

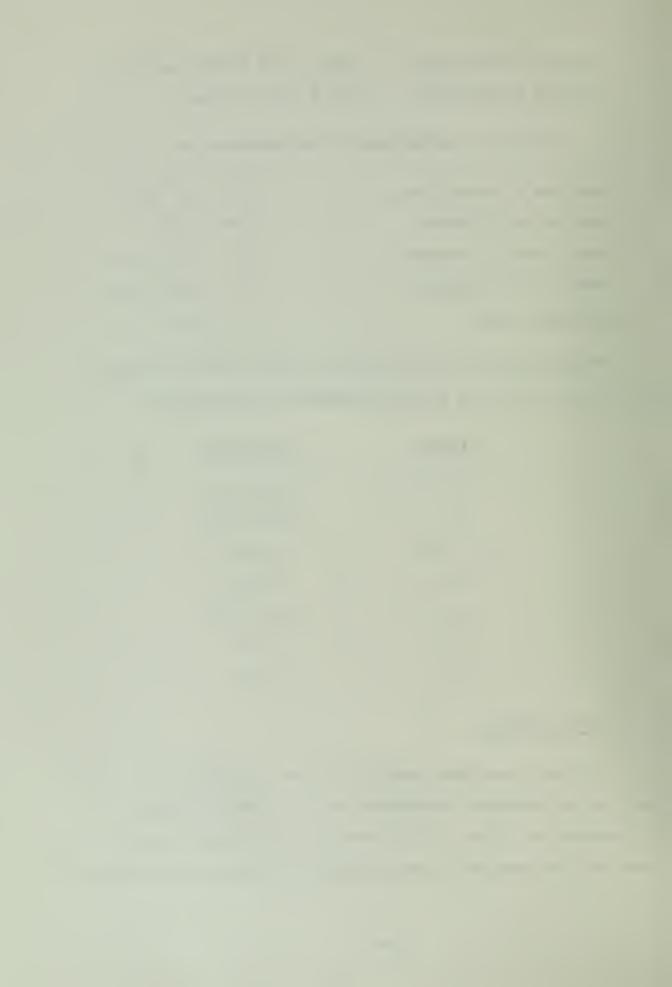
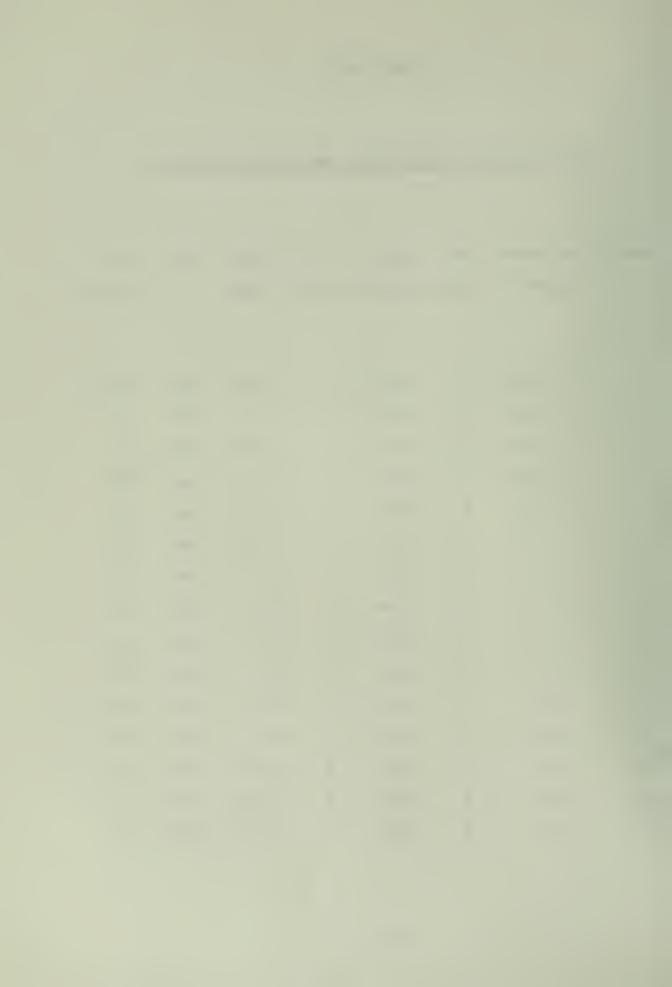


TABLE 2.2.1

## TEST SPECIMEN DISCRIPTION AND WELD CONDITIONS

MODEL	THICKNESS	TEE	LINER	# OF	VOLTS	AMPS	SPEED
#	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	PASSES	DCRP		IN/MIN
1	•250	6	.440	1	22.5	215	14.5
2	•250	6	.375	1	22.5	210	11
3	•250	6	•254	1	22.5	180	12
4	•375	6	•95	3	21.5	230	19
5	•375	6	.185	3	21.5	230	17
6	•375	6	.245	3	21.5	230	19
7	•375	3	•000	3	22	240	17
8	•375	3	.254	3	22	240	13
9	•375	3	.125	3	22	240	12
10	•50	6	•95	3	22	240	17
11	•50	6	.185	3	22	240	16
12	•50	6	.254	3	22	240	18
13	• 50	3	•000	3	22.5	250	13
14	• 50	3	.125	3	22.5	250	13
15	•50	3	•254	3	22.5	250	13



The different liner sizes were selected from a study outline in Appendix B, in the hope that they would bracket the "ideal" liner diameter for minimum angular distortion.

### Welding Equipment

- Power Supply Westinghouse Type R. S. Silicon Rectifier, Constant Voltage Power.
- 2. Wire Feeder Airco Wire Feeder Model AHF-L(117 v/3A).
- 3. Welding Process Gas Metal Arc, DCRP, using He Semi- Automatic, hand-held gun.

### 2.3 - Conduct of the Experiment

#### Welding Conditions

Initial weld conditions are specified for each model in Table 2.2.1. Welding parameters at first were set to conform to ALCOA specifications for their material and were subsequently varied where necessary to produce a clean, smooth and spatter free weld. Arc travel speed became a function of plate thickness and plate preparation.

#### Experimental Test Procedure

The model to be welded was first prestrained as shown in Figure 2.2.1. The flange tee was tacked into position along the longitudinal centerline. One fillet was then welded from right to left (because of the wire feed charac-



teristics of the gun). While the plate was still hot (approximately 30 seconds), the second fillet was welded right to left. Still clamped, the plate was allowed to cool to room temperature (approximately 80°F). The plate was then unclamped, and moved to the measurement table. Inside calipers and a micrometer were used to obtain the amount of out-of-plane deflection at the plate ends. The plate was then taken back to the welding platform, reclamped with the same roller underneath, and the next pass welded. This process was repeated for each plate depending on the specified number of passes.

#### 2.4 - Results

The recorded deflection readings were divided by the span length to give deflection in radians. Reduced data is found in Table 2.4.1. Figures 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 plot angular distortion versus liner height for 3/8" and 1/2" plates. Figure 2.4.3 and Figure 2.4.4 plot liner height versus plate thickness, for base plates with 3" and 6" tees, respectively.

### 2.5 - Analysis of Experimental Results

Referencing Appendix A, an analysis was conducted on angular distortion under various constraints. 

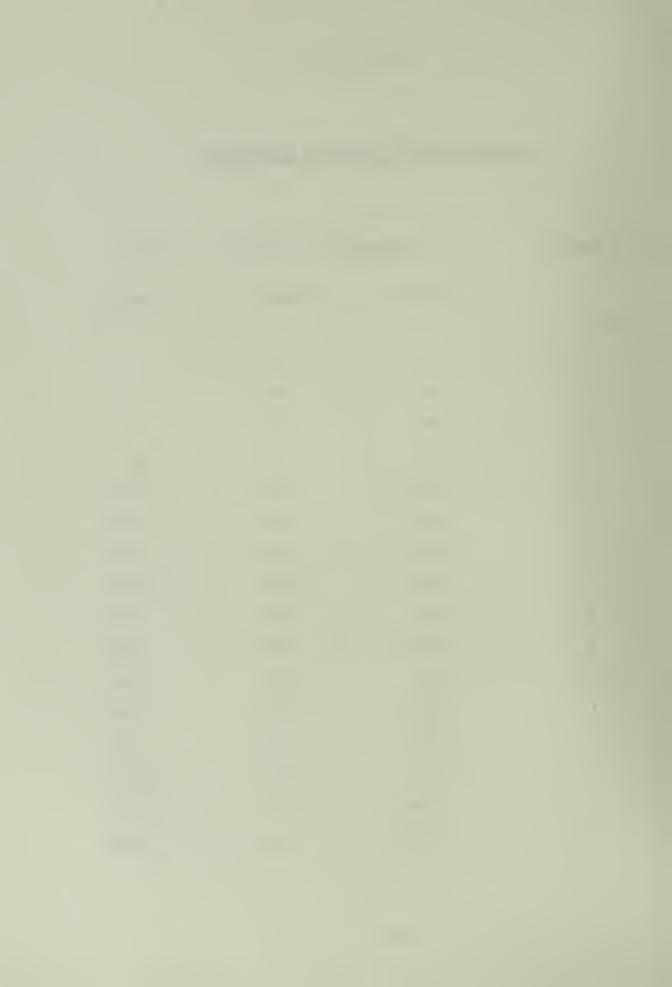
8 Assuming small deflections, elastic strain and a two dimensional model of reasonable accuracy, the appendix ties together

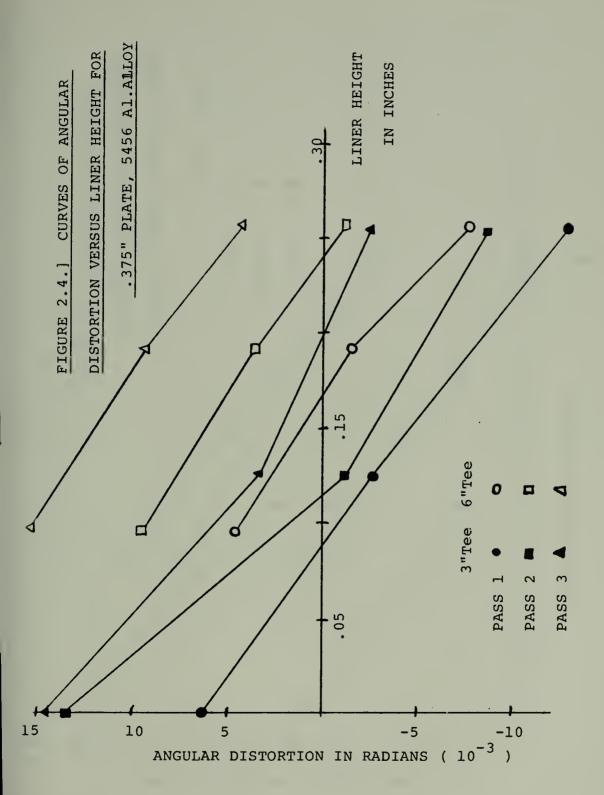


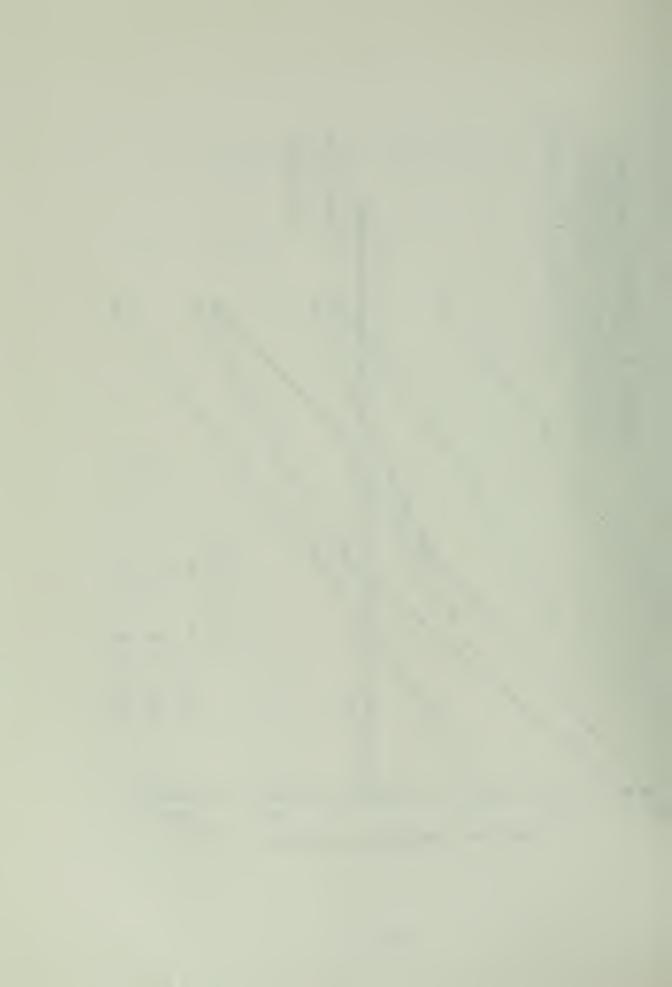
TABLE 2.4.1

# REDUCED DATA OF ANGULAR DISTORTION

Plate Number	Distort	ion in Radians (	$x 10^{-2}$ )
	Pass 1	Pass 2	Pass 3
1		_	
2			_
3			- tubus
4	+ •442	+ •973	+ 1.56
5	11	+ .32	+ •91
6	837	078	+ •33
7	+ •62	+ 1.39	+ 1.43
8	- 1.3	85	18
9	334	192	268
10	+ 1.0	+ 1.8	+ 2.04
11	+ •35	+ 1.23	+ 1.315
12	+ .07	+ .71	+ .81
13	+ 1.22	+ 2.322	+ 2.55
14	+ •278	+ 1.0	+ 1.26
15	3185	119	+ .186







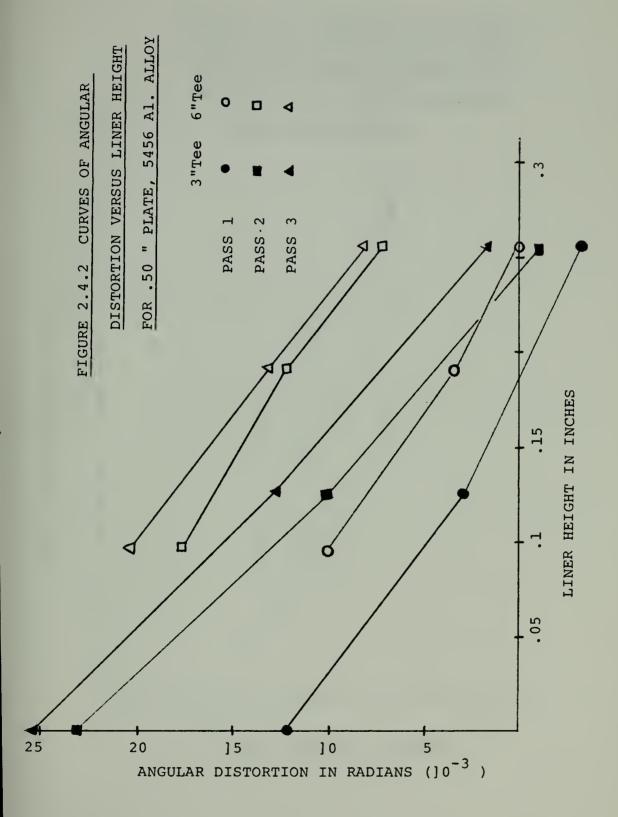
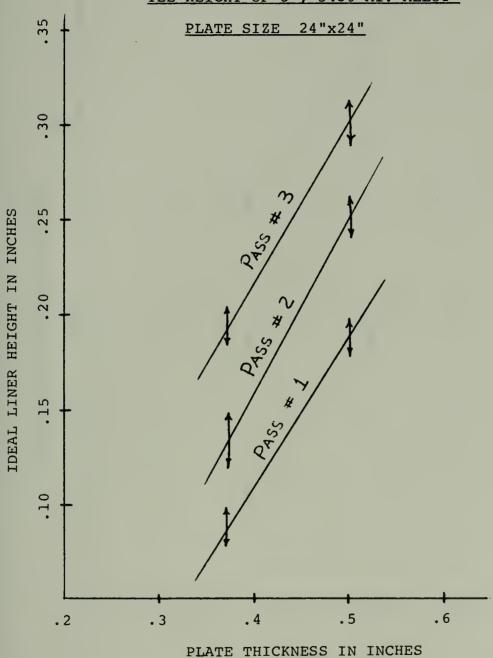




FIGURE 2.4.3 CURVES OF IDEAL LINER
HEIGHT VERSUS PLATE THICKNESS FOR A
TEE HEIGHT OF 3", 5456 Al. ALLOY



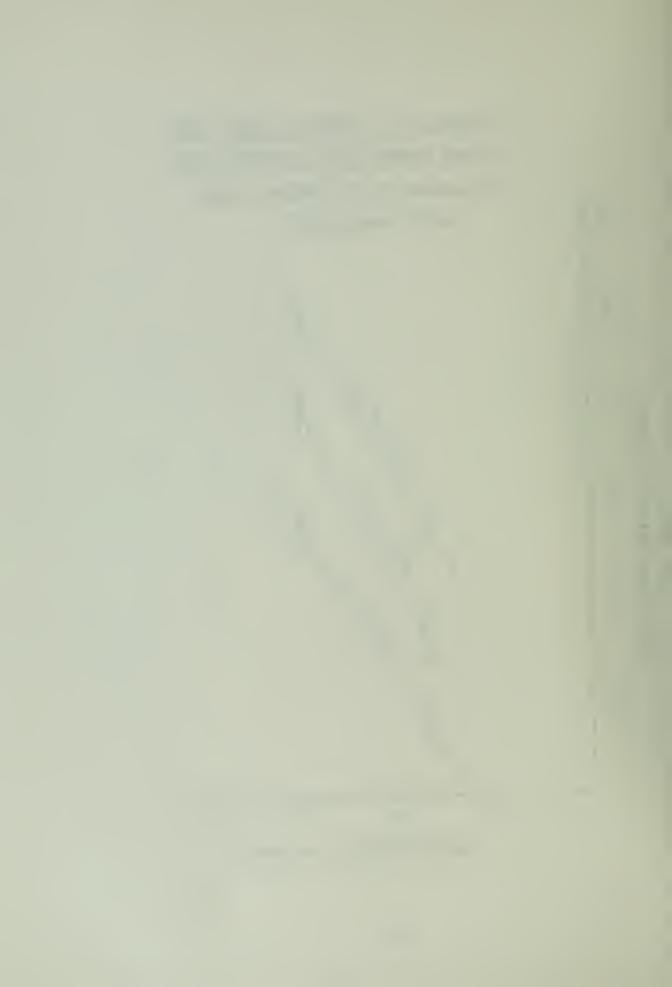
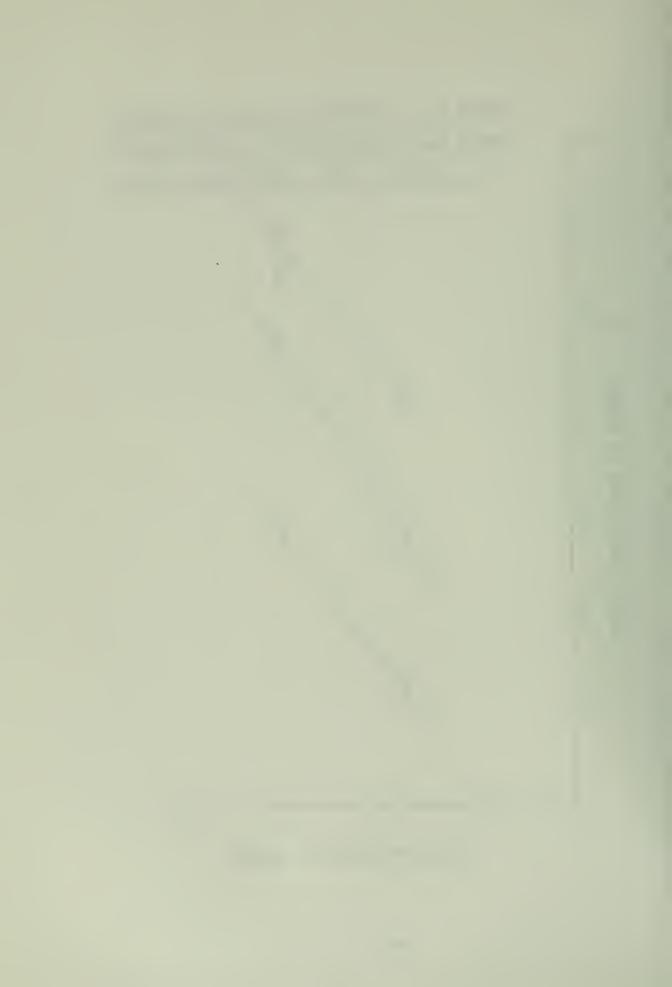


FIGURE 2.4.4 CURVES OF IDEAL LINER HEIGHT VERSUS PLATE THICKNESS FOR A TEE HEIGHT OF 6", 5456 Al. ALLOY, PLATE SIZE 24"x24" 35 IDEAL LINER HEIGHT IN INCHES 25 15 . 3 . 2 . 6 PLATE THICKNESS IN INCHES



much of the work done on angular distortion in aluminum. Figure A.3 provides a reasonable analytic extension of the experimental data plotted on Figure 2.4.3.

Examining another tract in the interpretation of experimental results, the analysis now develops an industrial guideline for prestraining aluminum.

With reference to Appendix B, the assumption has been offered that by matching surface strains along the intended weld line, through prebending the shape to be fillet welded, angular distortion can be minimized. What is really being done is to match interior strain patterns because, for the simple shapes considered, strain is usually uniform and linear (for small deflections).

Appendix B supplies displacement versus strain for several aluminum plate thicknesses and weld spans. These figures are super-imposed on the data results from Figure 2.4.3 (3" tees), which plots plate thickness versus required deflection for minimum angular distortion. The combination of these two figures is Figure 2.5.1, Upper Plate Maximum Surface Strain Versus Plate Thickness, for 3" tees and 1, 2, and 3 passes.

To make use of this curve, enter with the plate thickness and required number of passes (given in material specifications), and find the required surface strain along the weld line. As an example, consider a job order for a 10 foot plate, 1/2" thick, of 5456 aluminum alloy with 3" tees located every foot.

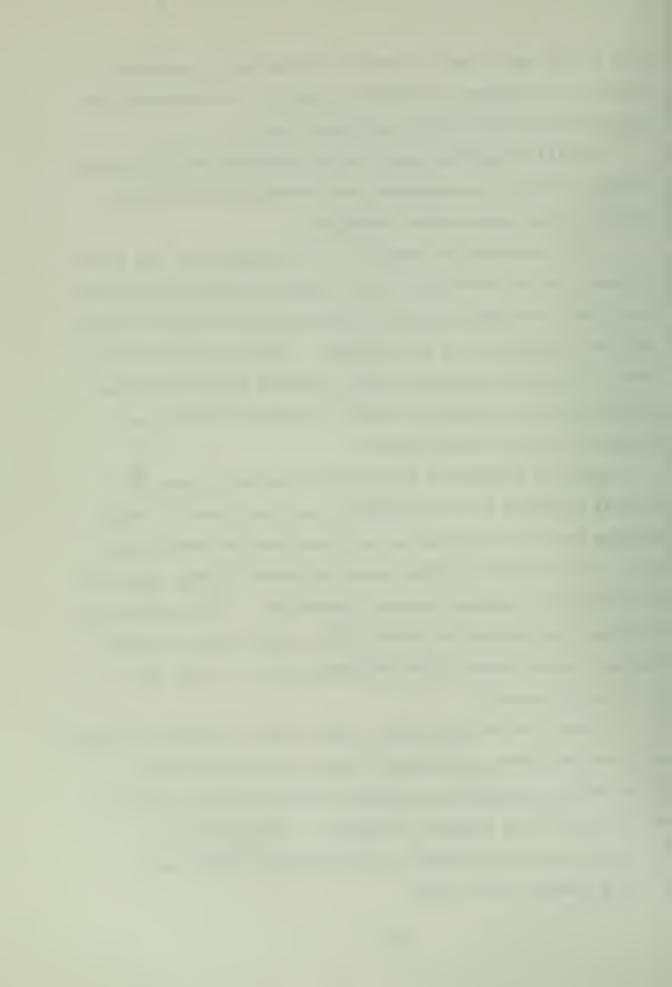
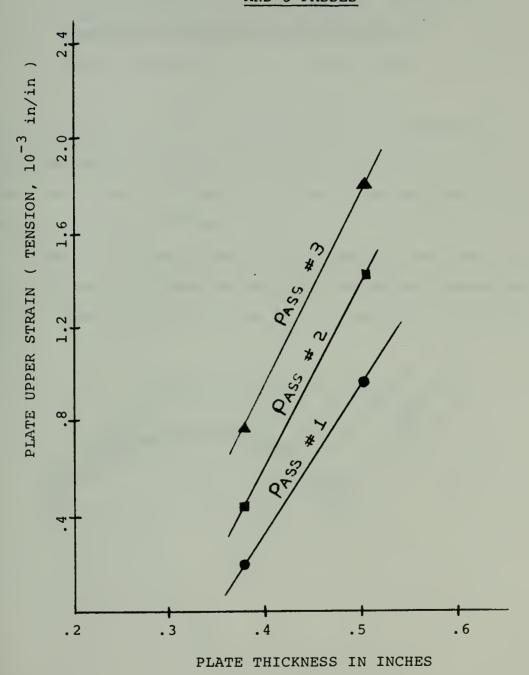
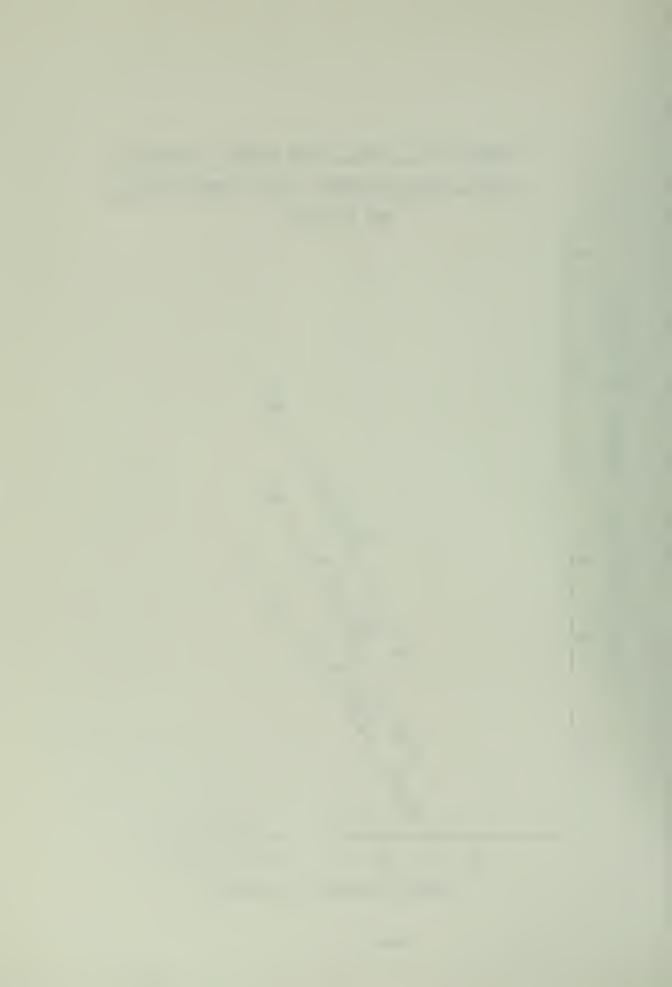


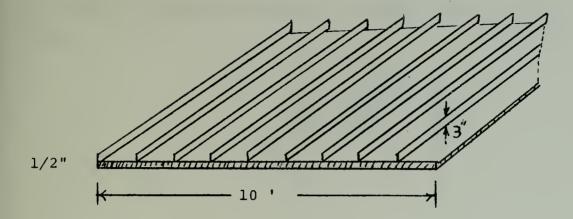
FIGURE 2.5.1 MAX. UPPER STRAIN ( TENSION)

VERSUS PLATE THICKNESS FOR 3" TEES WITH 1,2,

AND 3 PASSES

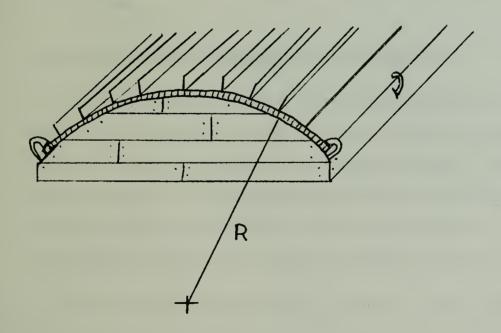






Specifications call for the plate to be GMA welded with three passes per fillet. Entering Figure 2.5.1 at "t" equal to .5" and 3 passes per fillet, the required surface strain is 1.82 X 10<sup>-3</sup> in./ in.

Common industrial practice in handling the same distortion problem with steel is to clamp the plate, before welding, onto a curved platform in the form of an arc of a circle.





From Timoshenko <sup>21</sup> and Kumose <sup>16</sup>, the formula for arc radius is found knowing plate thickness and surface strain.

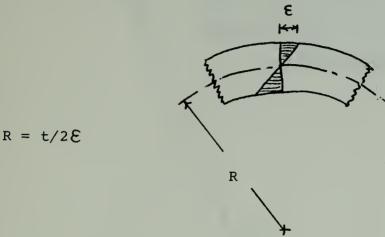


Figure 2.5.2, Plate Thickness Versus Arc Radius, takes the above equation for arc radius and applies it to Figure 2.5.1, Plate Thickness Versus Surface Strain.

In the specific example discussed above, using Figure 2.5.2, the manufacturer would be required to use an arc radius of 23 feet.

### 2.6 - Experimental Observations and Comments

A. The significant variance in welding speed (see Table 2.2.1) was due, in part, to the varying types of surface finish found on each different plate. The welding speed was found to be dependent on how fast the oxide coating could be broken down in front of the welding gun as it was moved down the weld line.

B. For consistency each "tee" was of the same thick-

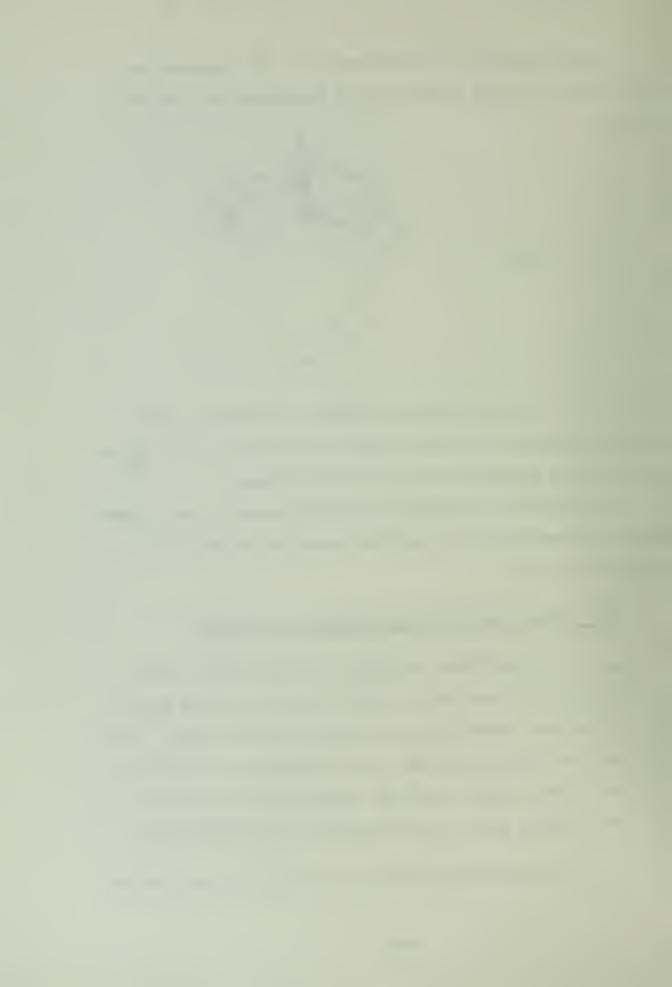
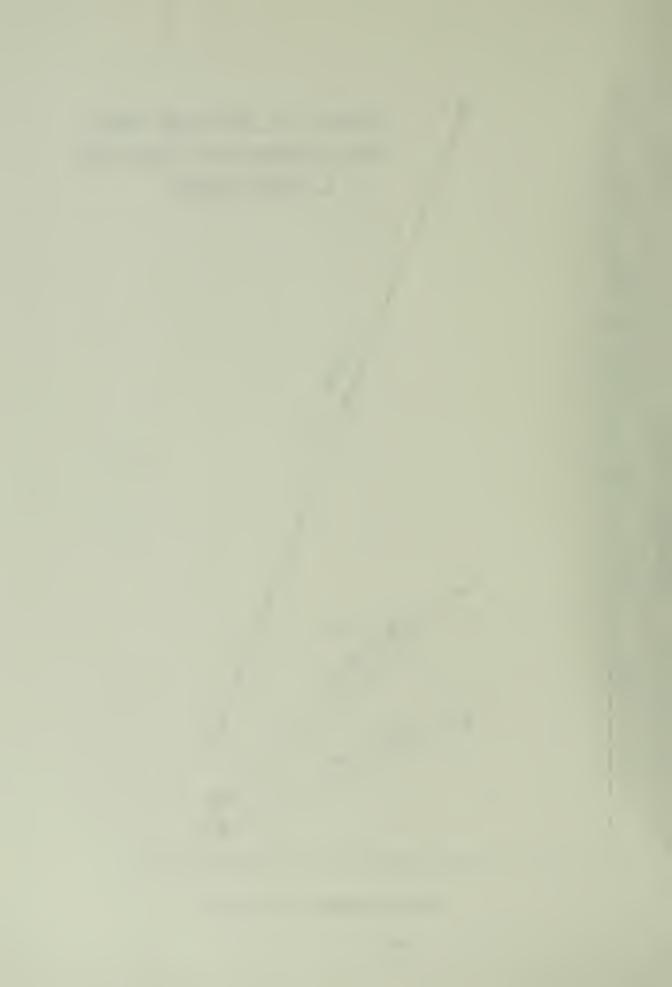
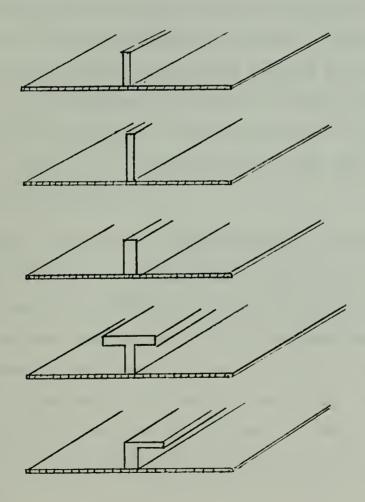


PLATE THICKNESS IN INCHES



ness as the base plate flange since it was assumed that the dimensions of the "tee" were not influencing the amount of angular distortion. This assumption was in error, as can be seen by comparing Figures 2.4.3 and 2.4.4. Further research should be conducted with respect to the typesof "tee" used and their effect on longitudinal and rotational distortion. It is believed that each of the combinations sketched below will produce significantly different results when similarly welded. Note all base plates have the same lengths and widths and thicknesses.





C. The interest in this experiment was only in outof-plane angular distortion (rotation). Therefore,
simple, straight, full passes were made with little
concern for minimizing the other types of distortion.
The assumption was made that, for small distortions,
angular out-of-plane distortion was uncoupled from
transverse and longitudinal distortion. Also assumed
was that, at any transverse cut (away from end boundary
effects), the two-dimensional picture of angular
distortion would be similar.

However, experimental results showed that there was a variance up to 25% in angular distortion across the plate in the longitudinal direction, indicating a coupling with other distortions because of our welding procedure. To minimize this effect, future experimentors should use welding sequence techniques discussed in Chapter 1 while still maintaining the same heat input to the plate specimen.

D. Reliable data for this experiment was not obtained from the %" plates. Distortions, in both the angular and longitudinal directions, coupled with plate buck—ling to produce complex curvatures that were unsuitable for measurement and beyond the scope of this work to analyze. Plate buckling from butt welds has been analyzed, and is reviewed in reference 7 (Figure 27, page 27). No such graph exists at present for fillet welding.



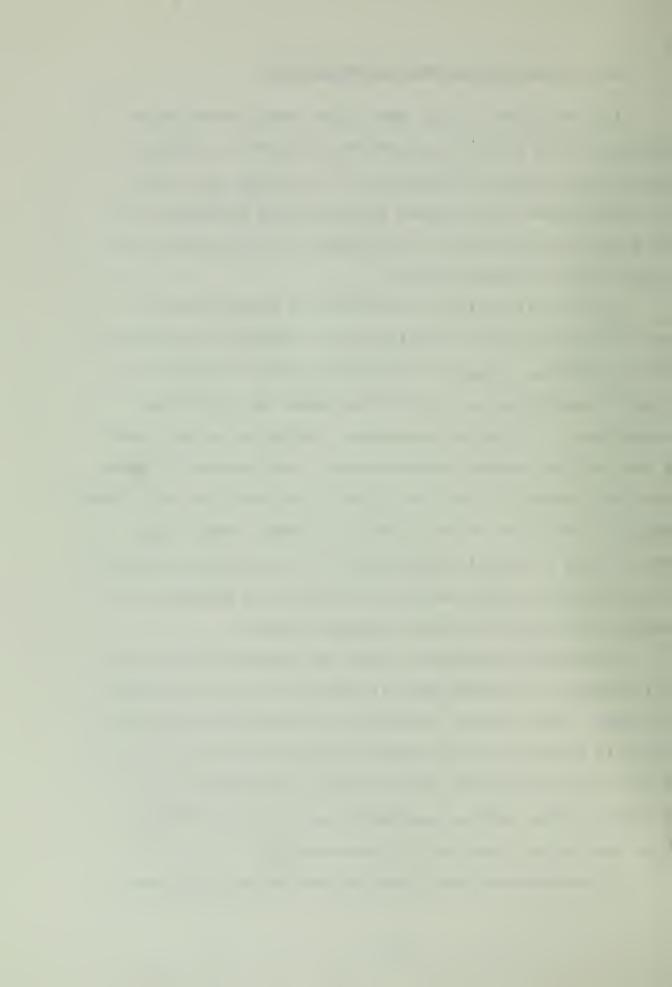
#### 2.7 - Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, it has been found that prestraining aluminum alloy plate is an effective method of reducing out-of-plane angular distortion. The method can easily be incorporated into current plate welding processes with only small corrections to the numerical tape programs now used in plate assembly lines.

It is believed that this method of constraining is the most restrictive, allowing only a minimum of distortion during welding. Elastic prestraining can be compared to plastic preforming as a mechanical means of distortion reduction. In plastic prebending, the plate is bent over a die and then welded unconstrained. The inherent problem with this method is that the plate is allowed the full "free" angular distortion during welding. A small percentage error would be almost unnoticeable in the elastic prestraining method, but would become most obvious in plastic prebending because of the large angular change.

It should be understood that the results obtained in this chapter are useful only if similar welding conditions are used. The results, although representative, would not apply if another welding technique was substituted. The author realizes, that in modern plate fabrication subassembly lines, welding processes are far more efficient than the methods used in this experiment.

In recommending additional efforts to solidify what



is known about elastic prestraining, it should be pointed out that this work is the first known effort in this particular area of distortion reduction. Reviewing Figure A.3, it can be pointed out that the lines beyond .50" and before .375" are merely approximate extrapolations. There is no evidence to support their accuracy. The author recommends that additional research be conducted to evaluate, as a minimum, 1/4", 5/8", and 3/4" aluminum alloys.

Efforts should also be pointed at determining and quantifying the coupling influences on out-of-plane angular distortion.

Physical research is only one answer to the problem of lack of data. In Chapters 3 and 4, an attempt is made to simulate the fillet welding process by computer application. It is not hard to envision future investigators conducting only a few "representative" welding experiments and using the computer, through simulation, to fill in the rest of the necessary information.



# 3.0 - EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATION OF OUT-OF-PLANE DISTORTION IN FILLET WELDED ALUMINUM

#### 3.1 - General

The objective of the next two chapters is to draw from man's previous experience in computer technology and, in particular, the predictability of heat input, temperature distributions, strain and distortion, and mold the several programs into one that can reliably simulate the actual effects of welding. In this chapter a description of the experiment performed and resulting observations will be given. Chapter 4 will be the computer simulated follow-up of this experiment.

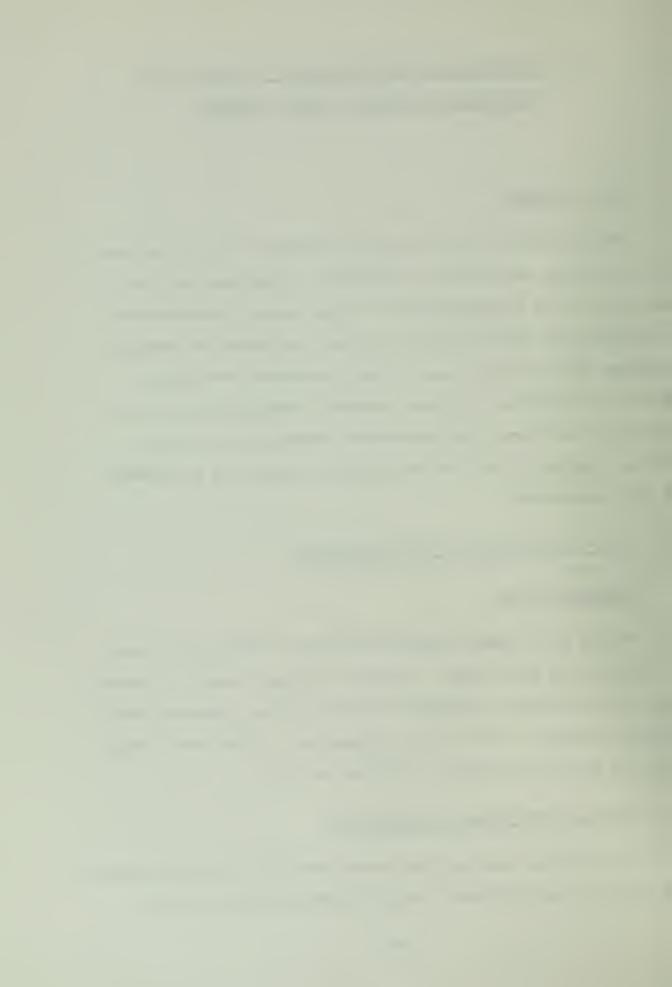
## 3.2 - Preparation of the Experiment

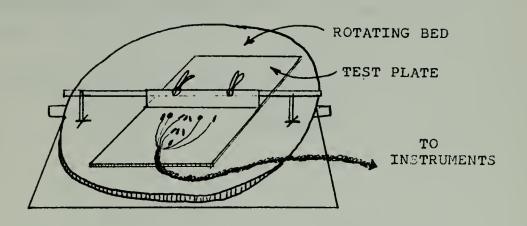
## Supporting jig

Figure 3.2.1 shows schematically the welding jig used to support the test plate. Special care was taken to insure that the distortions recorded were only those produced from thermal strains. The jig was clamped to a rigid steel bed that had both the ability to rotate and tilt.

## Material and material properties

The material used in this experiment was aluminum-magnesium structural alloy 5052-H32, strain hardened, and non-heat-





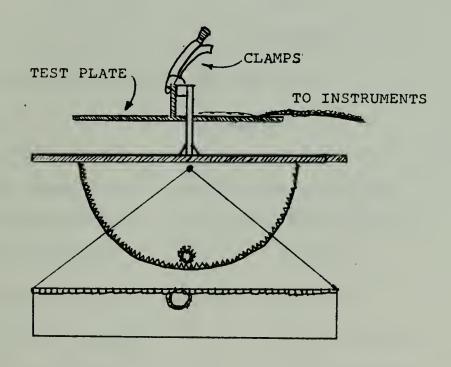
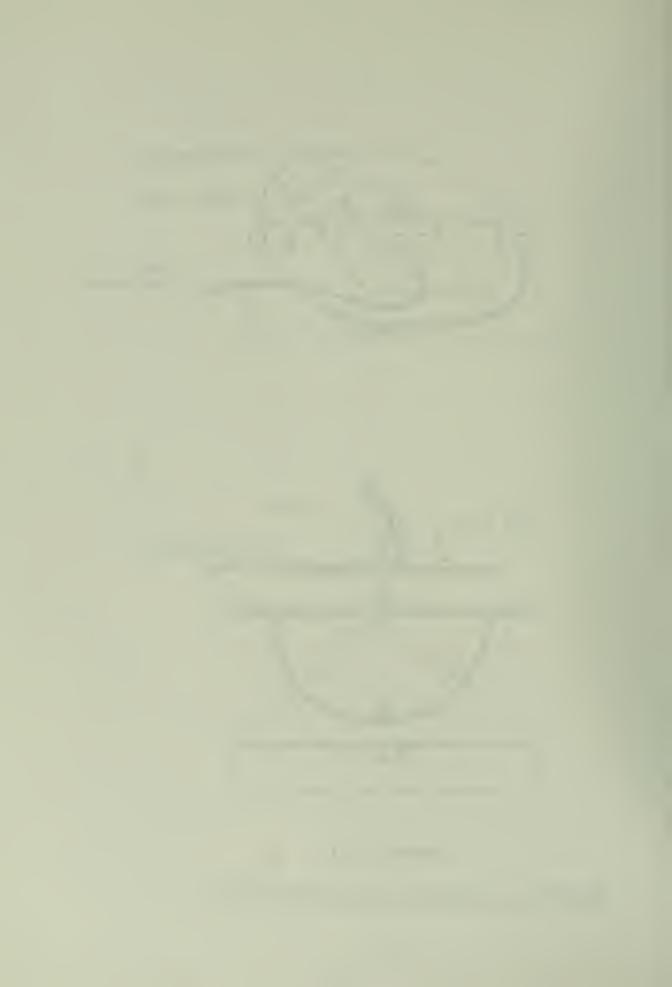


FIGURE 3.2.1

## PICTORIAL SCHEMATIC OF THE TESTING SETUP



treatable. This material was selected because of its large use in marine and general structural fabrications.

The characteristics and properties of the material are as follows: 17, 18, 19, 20

## 1. Chemical composition (typical)

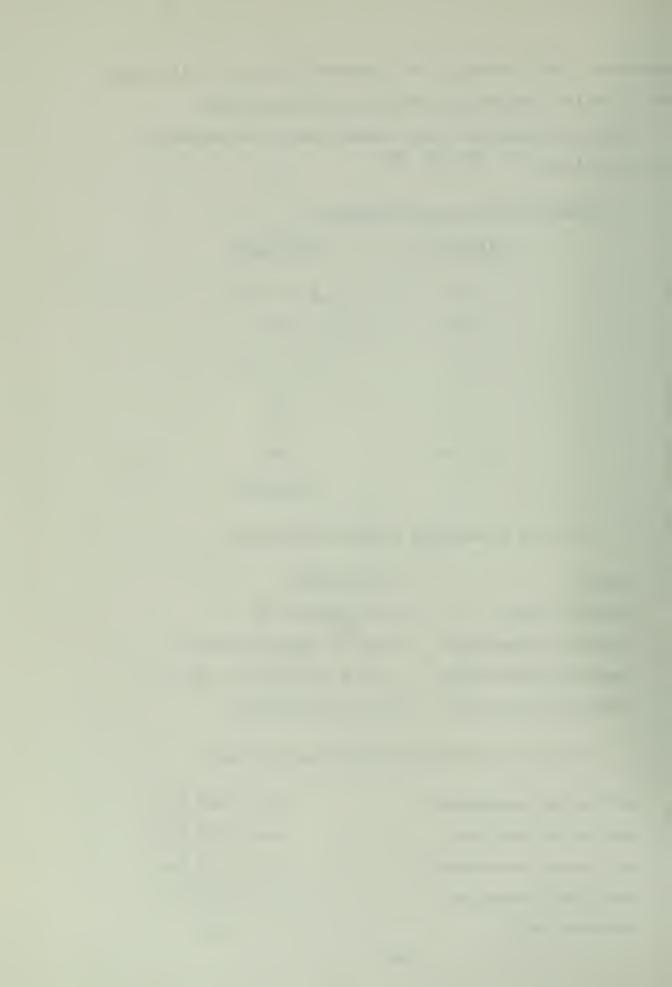
Elements	Percentage
Mg	2.2 - 2.8
Mn	.10
Cr	0.15 - 0.35
Cu	.10
Zn	•10
Si + Fe	• 45
A1 .	Remainder

## 2. Physical properties (room temperature)

density	.097 lbm/in <sup>3</sup>
specific heat	.23 BTU/1bm <sup>O</sup> F
liquidus temperature	1120 °F (approximately)
thermal conductivity	.185 $\times$ 10 <sup>-2</sup> BTU/in sec $^{\circ}$ F
thermal diffusivity	$8.2 \times 10^{-2} \text{ in}^2/\text{sec}$

# 3. Mechanical properties (room temperature)

modulus of elasticity	10.2	x	10 <sup>6</sup>	PSI
modulus of rigidity	3.8	Х	10 <sup>6</sup>	PSI
min. tensile strength	33	х	103	PSI
min. yield strength	28	Х	103	PSI
poissons ratio		. 3	334	



Filler metal selection was based on ease of welding and material on hand. Filler wire 4043 was used and had the following chemical composition:

Element	Percentage
Mn	•05
Zn	•10
Mg	•05
Cu	<b>.</b> 30
Si	4.5 - 6.0
Fe	•8
Ti	•2
Al	Remainder

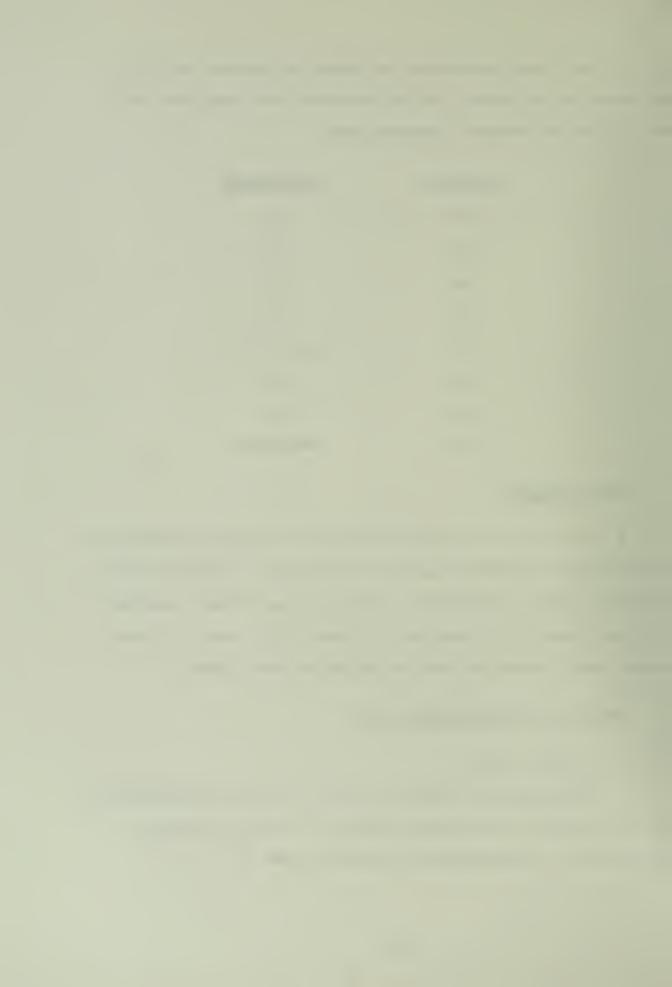
#### Test Specimen

A 0.50 inch thick plate was used in this study because of its ease of handling and two-dimensional characteristics. With the welding conditions imposed, it would not approach critical bending or buckling. Figure 3.2.2 shows a plate layout with dimensions and locations of test gages.

## Sensors and Instrumentation

## 1. Strain gages.

Two types of gages were used in this investigation, the SR-4 single foil element gage and the SR-4 rosette (45 degree). Properties are listed below. 22



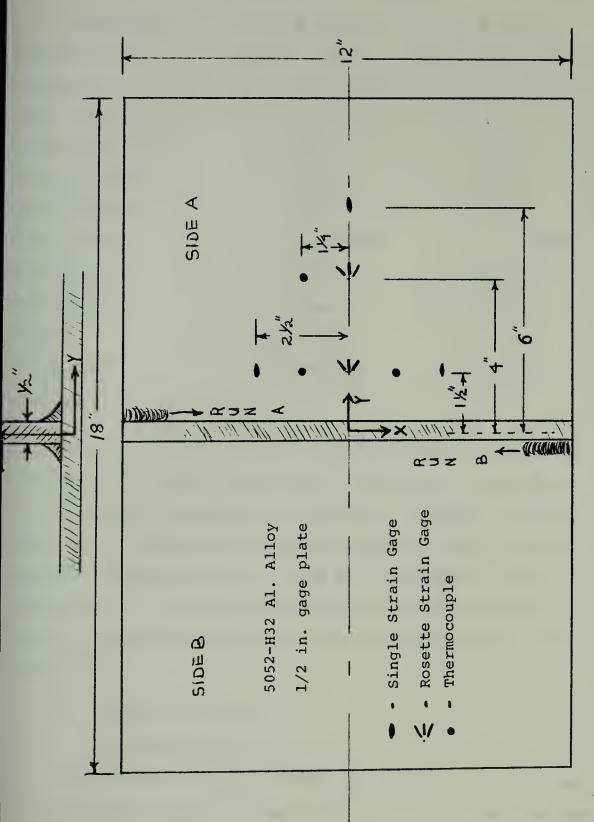


FIGURE 3.2.2 TEST PLATE LAYOUT



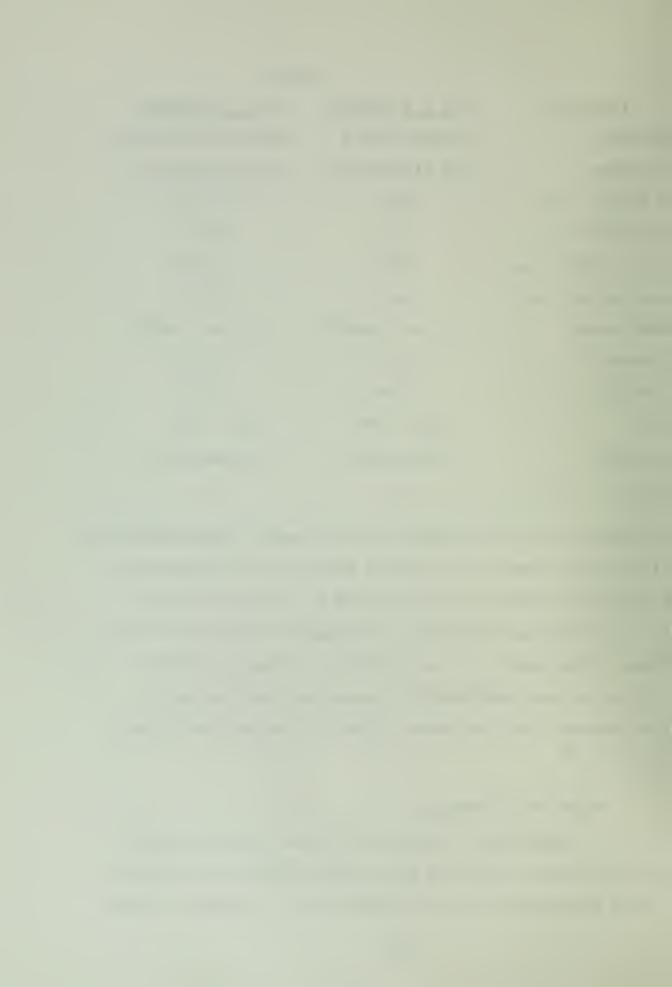
GAGE

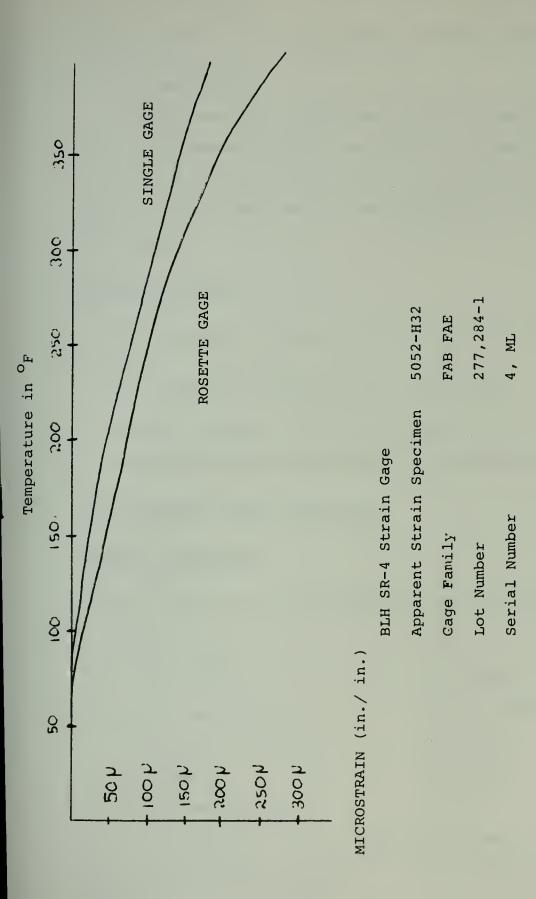
Property	SR - 4 Single	SR - 4 Rosette
Designation	FAE-25-12S13	FAER-18RB-12513-ET
Manufacture	BLH Electronics	BLH Electronics
Grid length (in.)	0.25	3 / 16
Grid width (in.)	0.13	0.90
Overall length (in.)	0.35	0.280
Overall width (in.)	0.13	0.54
Thermal Range	- 50 to + 400°F	- 50 to + 400°F
Resistance	120 A	120 A
Gage Factor	2.08	2.03
Cement	EPY - 550	EPY - 550
Protective	BLH Barrier	BLH Barrier
Covering	С	С

Figure 3.2.3 plots apparent strain versus temperature (°F) for the single element and rosette strain gages respectively. This graph was experimentally derived by "baking" the test plate in an oven and recording the apparent strains and temperature. The graph will be used for an apparent thermal correction to the experimental strains because the gages were calibrated for a different type of aluminum base plate (2024). 23, 24

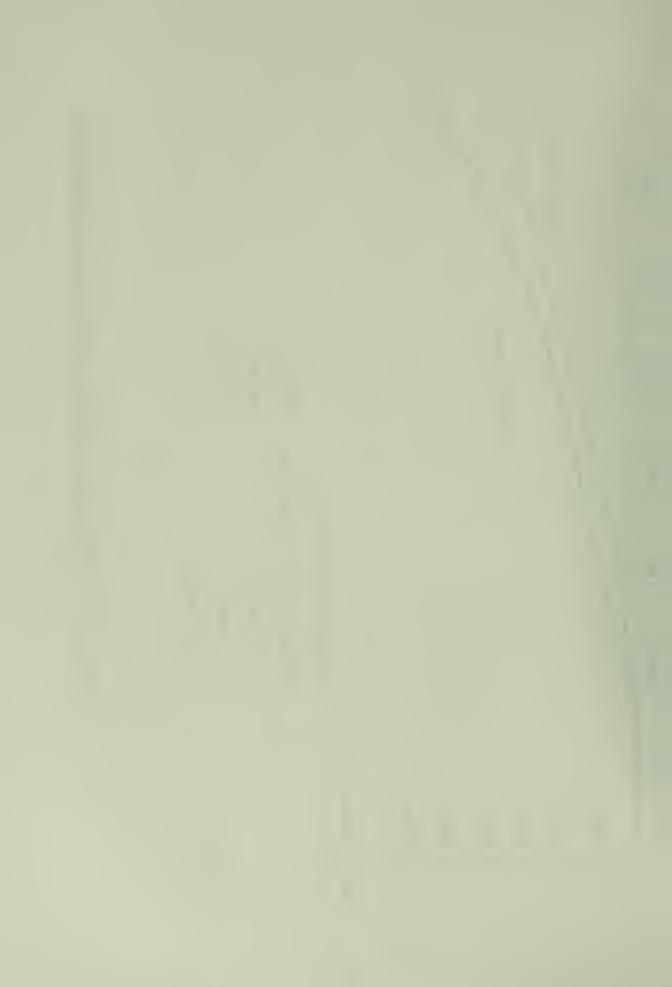
## 2. Temperature sensors.

All temperature sensors used were chromel/alumel thermocouples made from Leads and Northrup No. 28 wires. Each thermocouple was spot welded onto the test specimen





STRAIN GAGE APPARENT TEMPERATURE CHARACTERISTICS FIGURE 3.2.3



and protected by No. 33 Sauereisen Sealing Cement.

#### 3. Instrumentation.

Strain gages and thermocouples were connected to give a continuous read-out, as indicated schematically in Figure 3.2.4 and Figure 3.2.5. All circuits were fed into a Honeywell continuous-recording, 12 channel visicorder.

### Welding Equipment

- 1. Power supply An Airco 500 amp model 5DCR-224-A.
- 2. Wire feeder Aircomatic head model AMH-D.
- 3. Welding process GMA (MIG) process using an Airco model AMC-C, DCRP with Argon as a shielding gas.

## 3.3 - Conduct of the Experiment

## Welding Conditions

Initial selected weld conditions are detailed below.

weld length

nozzle speed

.3 in./sec.

wire feed speed

433 in./ min.

voltage

23 volts

current

290 amps

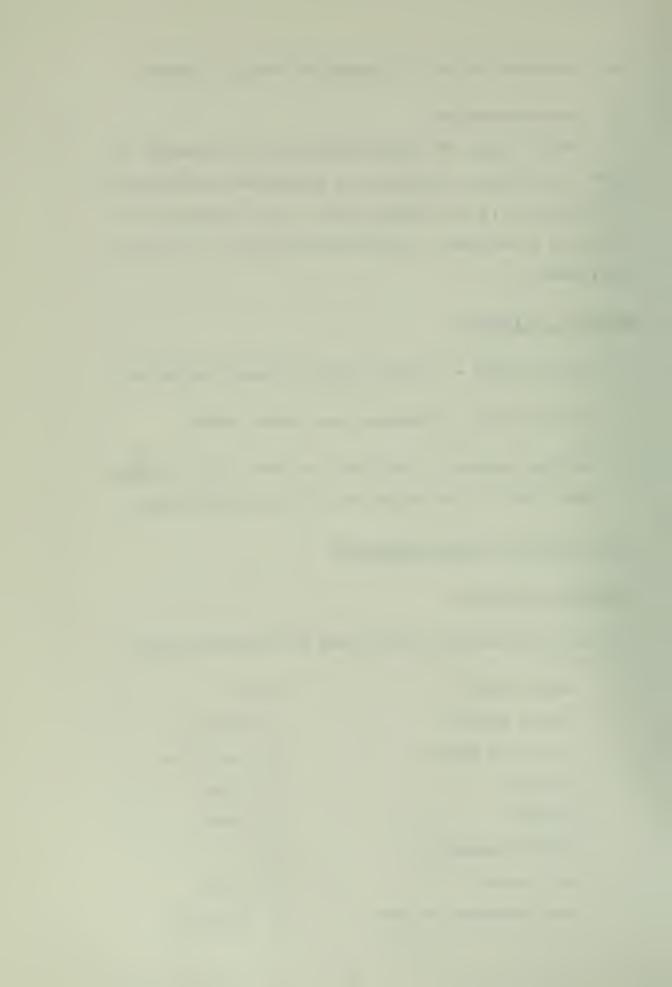
room temperature

78° F

arc length

0.50 in.

wire consumption rate 16 in./min.



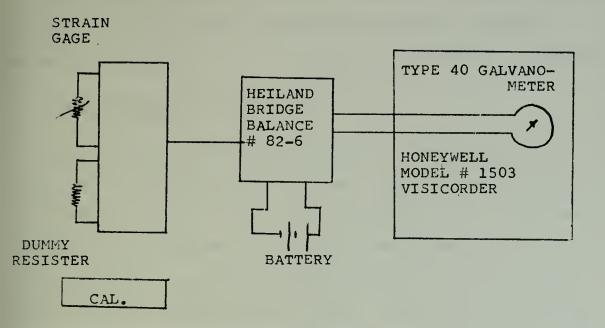


FIGURE 3.2.4 STRAIN GAGE INSTRUMENT CIRCUIT

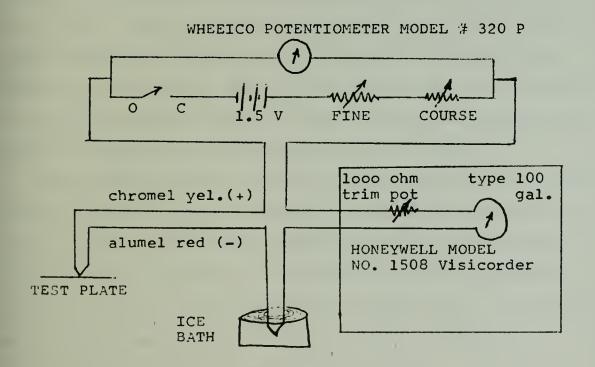
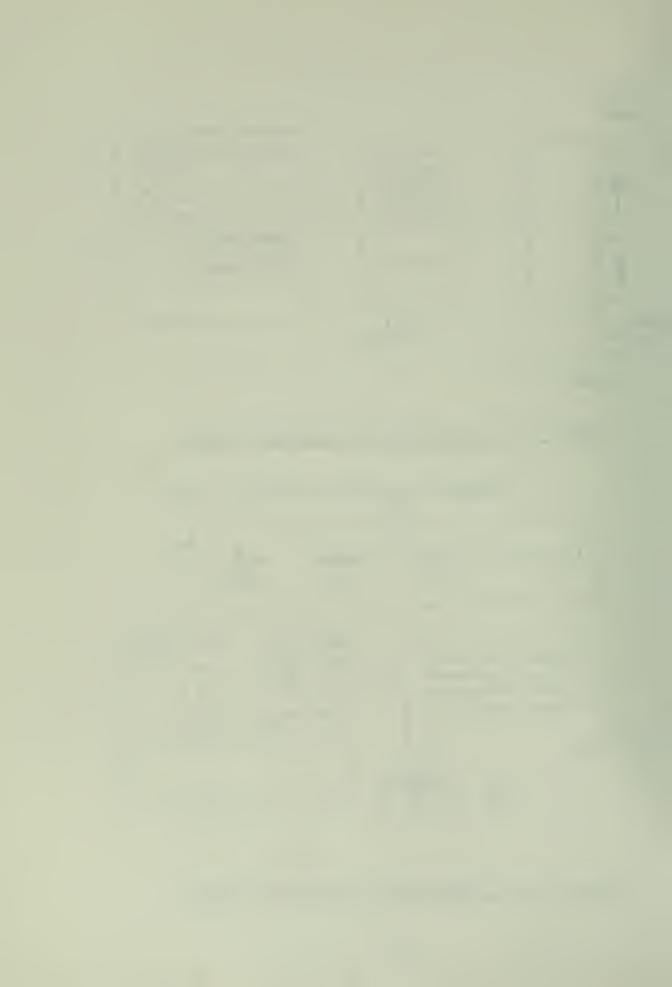


FIGURE 3.2.5 THERMOCOUPLE INSTRUMENT CIRCUIT

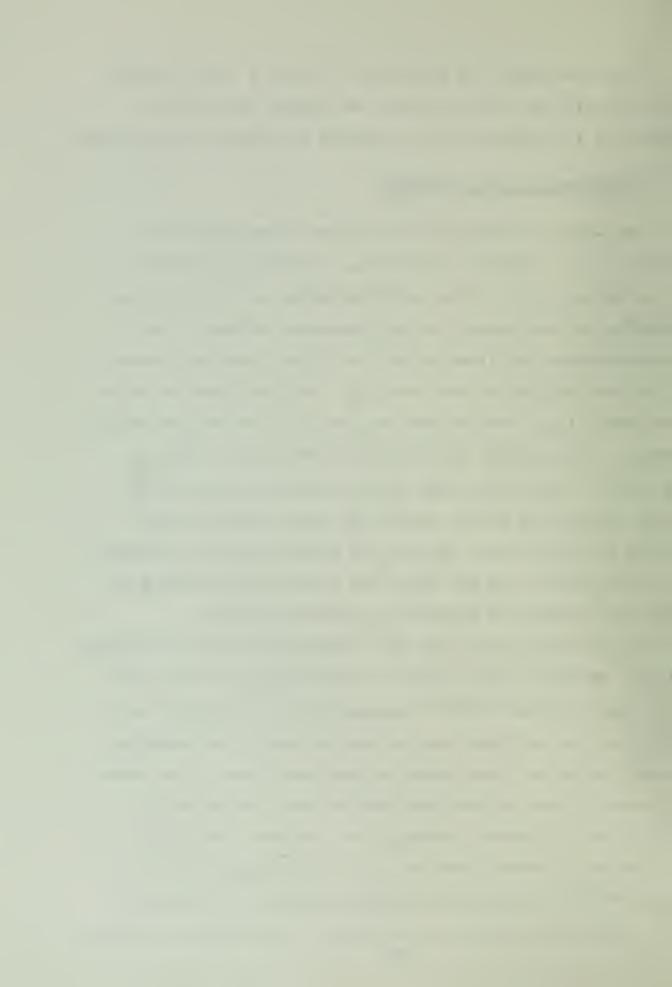


Wire feed speed was selected to insure a smooth, continuous weld with as little "noise" and spatter as possible because of its pick-up by the recorder as electronic distortion.

#### Experimental test procedure

The welding configuration is shown schematically in Figure 3.2.1. The test specimen was jigged up and tilted to approximately 45°. The instrumentation on the plate was connected and calibrated to the instrument package. The welding machine was lined up and positioned over the run-on tab at the left end of the test jig. Welding speed and wire feed speed (i.e., current and voltage) were set on the welding machine. The recorder was activated and the arc struck in the fillet. Marks were made on the recording paper as the nozzle reached the plate, passed the plate centerline and reached the plate end. The arc was extinguished as it passed on to the run-off tab and while the recorder was running the plate was rotated 180 degrees and allowed to cool.

The welding machine was then realigned to weld the second fillet. When the first series of thermocouples nearest the weld registered below 150°F (approximately 10 minutes) the second arc was initiated and allowed to run to the opposite run-off tab in the same manner as the first pass. The plate was again allowed to cool with the recorder periodically running until asymtotic readings were reached. The plate was then disconnected from the instrument package and constraining jig. During the exercise, readings were taken of time, temperature, strain, weld length, travel speed, current,



voltage and appearance of the weld. Once the plate was removed from the test stand it was measured for distortion.

# 3.4 - Results

## Data Reduction

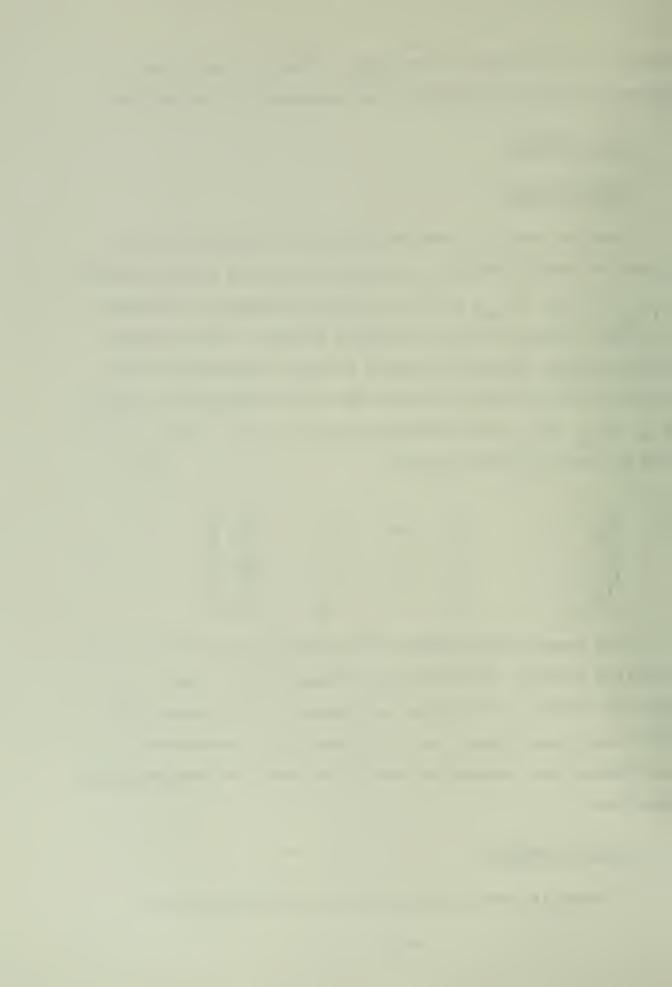
Since the results obtained from this experiment are to be used in comparison with a computer simulated model producing  $\mathcal{E}_{y}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{z}$ , and  $\mathcal{V}_{yz}$ , it was not found necessary to resolve the strain components into principle strains. After making the appropriate "apparent thermal strain" corrections using Figure 3.2.3, the actual strains from the rectangular rosette  $(\mathcal{E}_{a}, \mathcal{E}_{b}, \mathcal{E}_{c})$  were converted into  $\mathcal{E}_{x}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{y}$  and  $\mathcal{V}_{xy}$ , using the matix equation below.

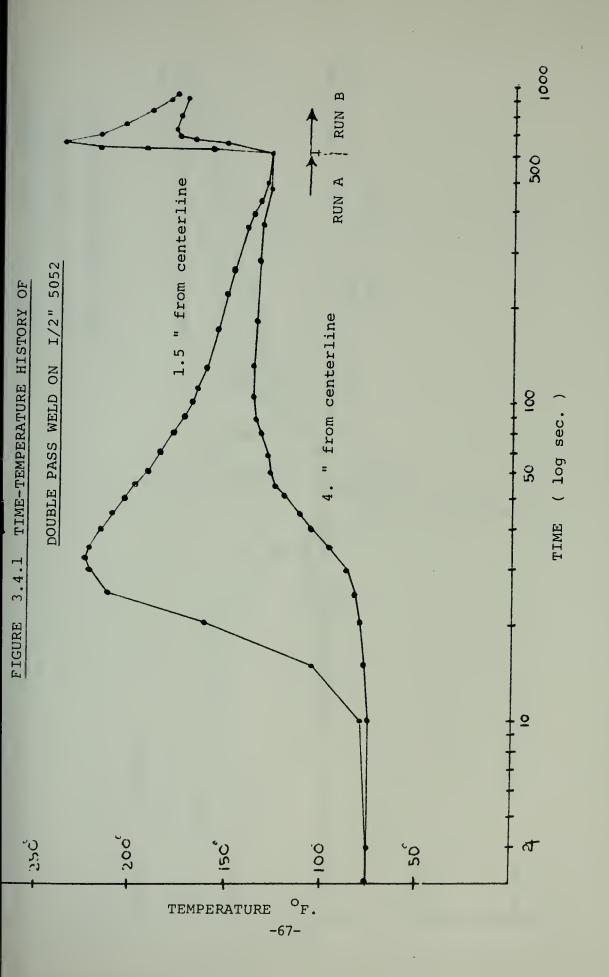
$$\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{x} \\ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{y} \\ \boldsymbol{\gamma}_{xy} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{a} \\ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{b} \\ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{c} \end{bmatrix}$$

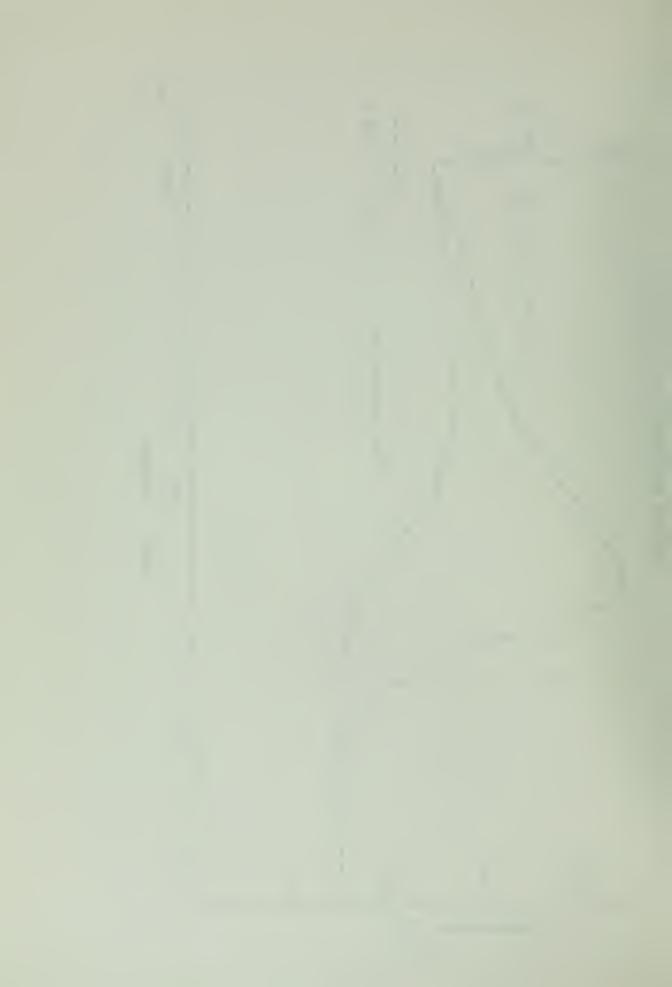
Plate temperature profile, timewise corrected for a centerline reading, was plotted on Figure 3.4.1. The resulting strains were plotted on Figure 3.4.2, Figure 3.4.3, Figure 3.4.4, and Figure 3.4.5. Figure 3.4.6 represents a two-dimensional centerline profile of resulting out-of-plane distortion.

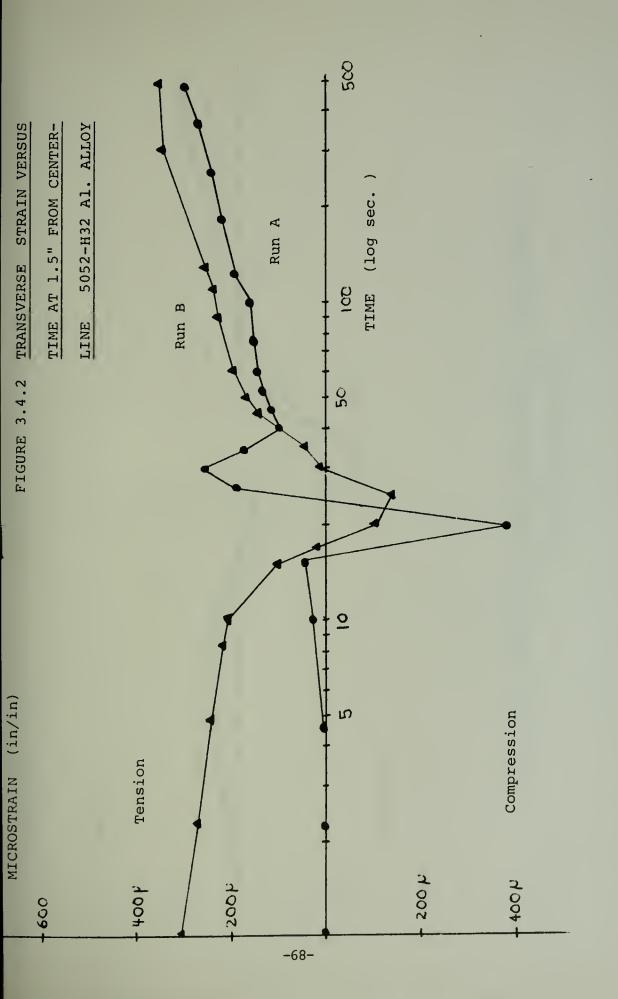
## General Comments

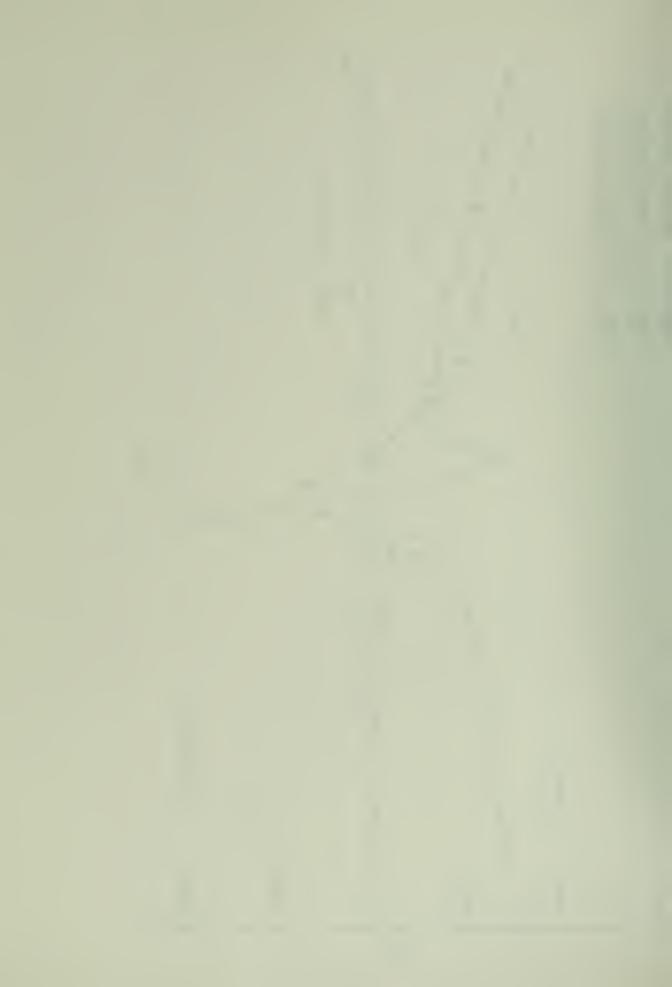
1. There is some doubt as to the reliability of the

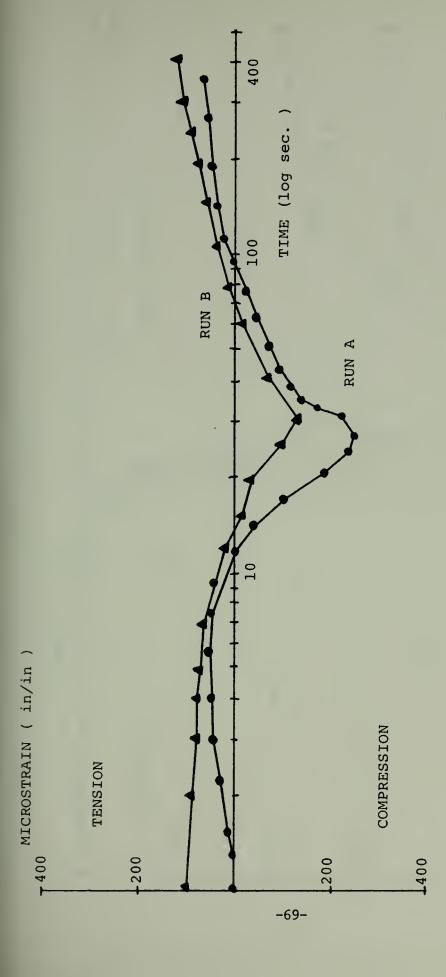






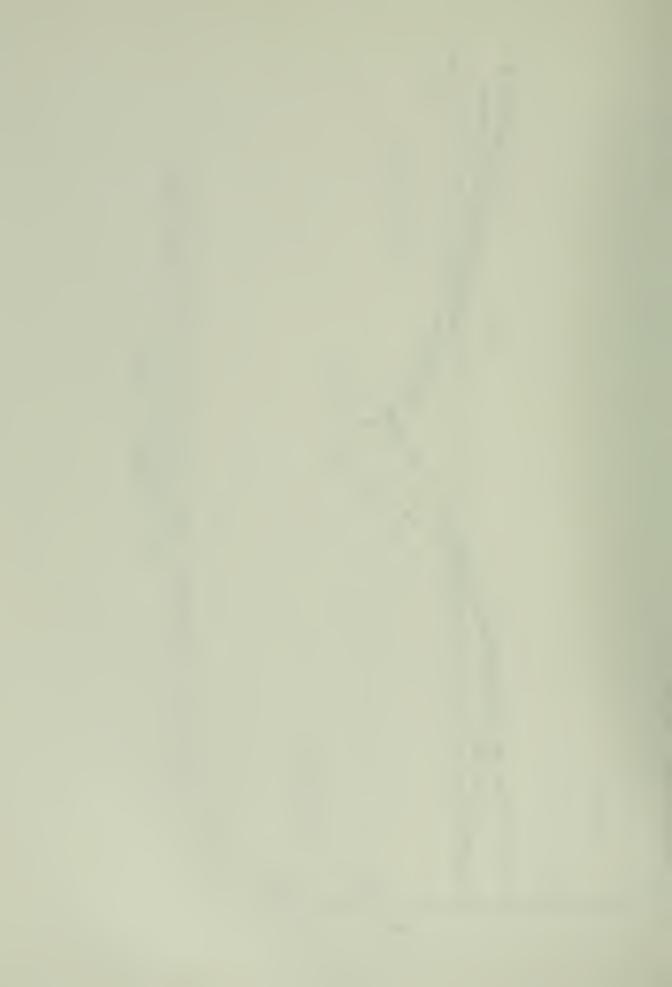


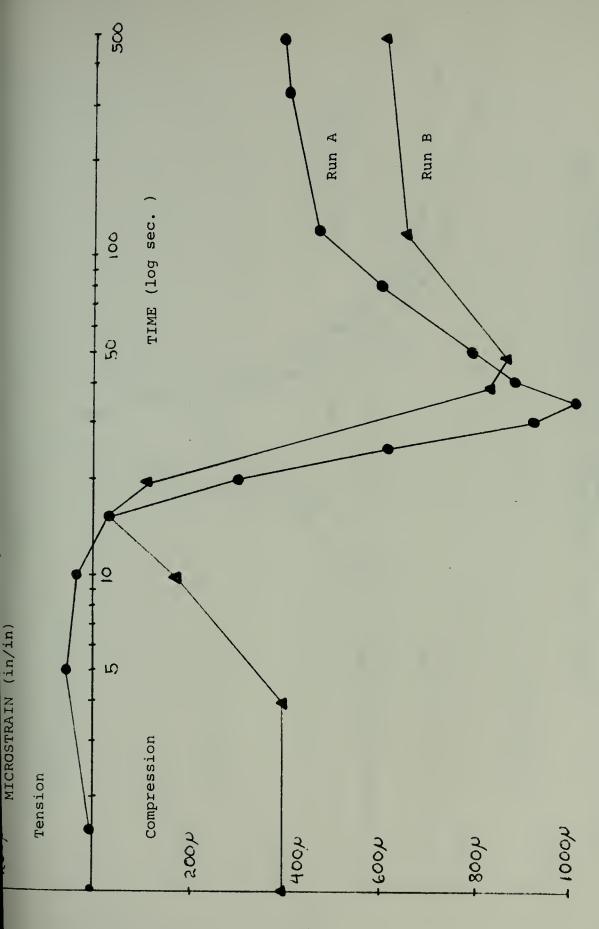




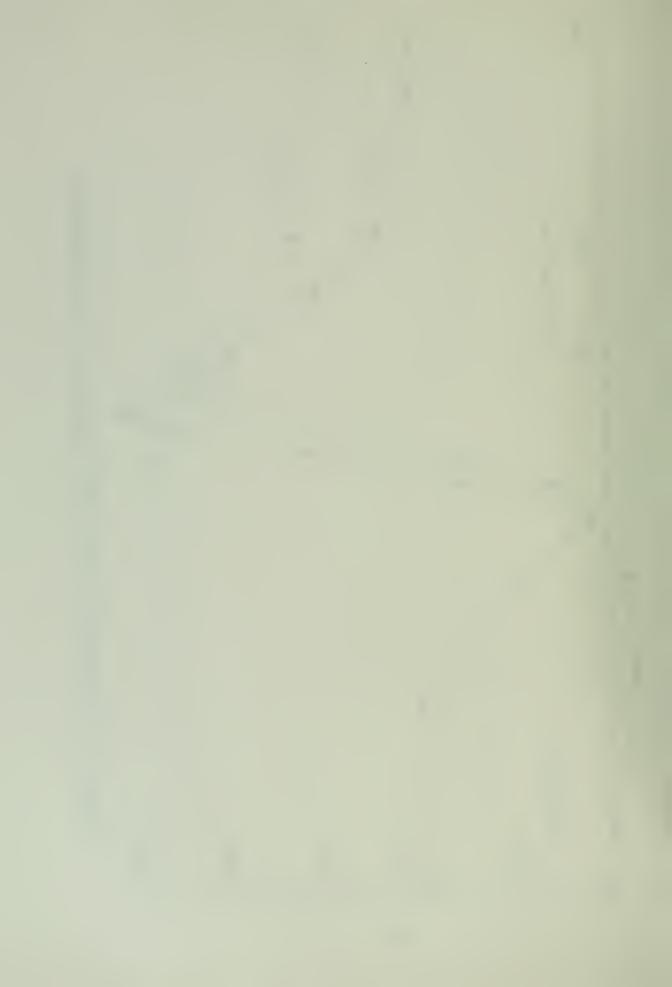
STRAIN VERSUS TIME AT 4" FROM CENTERLINE TRANSVERSE FIGURE 3.4.3

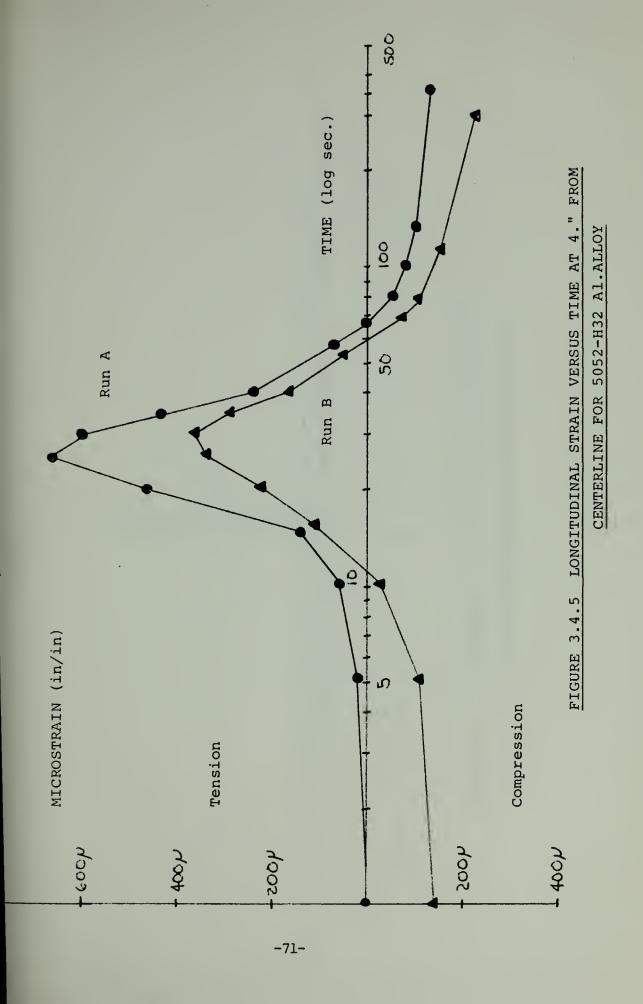
FOR 5052-H32 Al. ALLOY

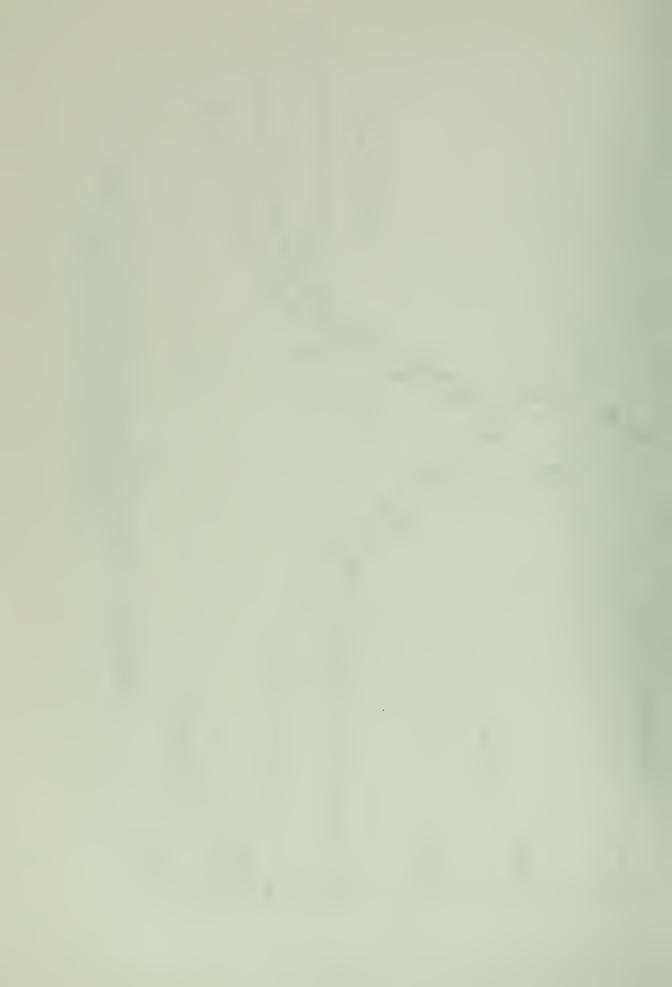




LONGITUDINAL STRAIN VERSUS TIME AT 1.5" FROM CENTERLINE FIGURE 3.4.4







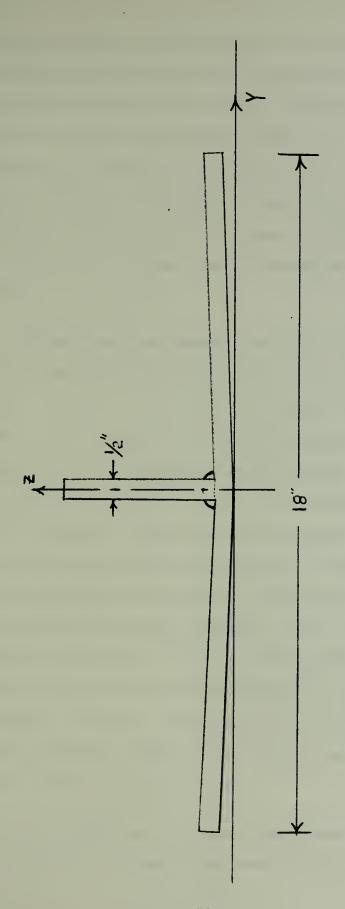


FIGURE 3.4.6 RESIDUAL ANGULAR OUT-OF-PLANE DISTORTION

OF TEST SPECIMEN 5052-H32 Al.ALLOY



welding machine used with respect to weld quality.

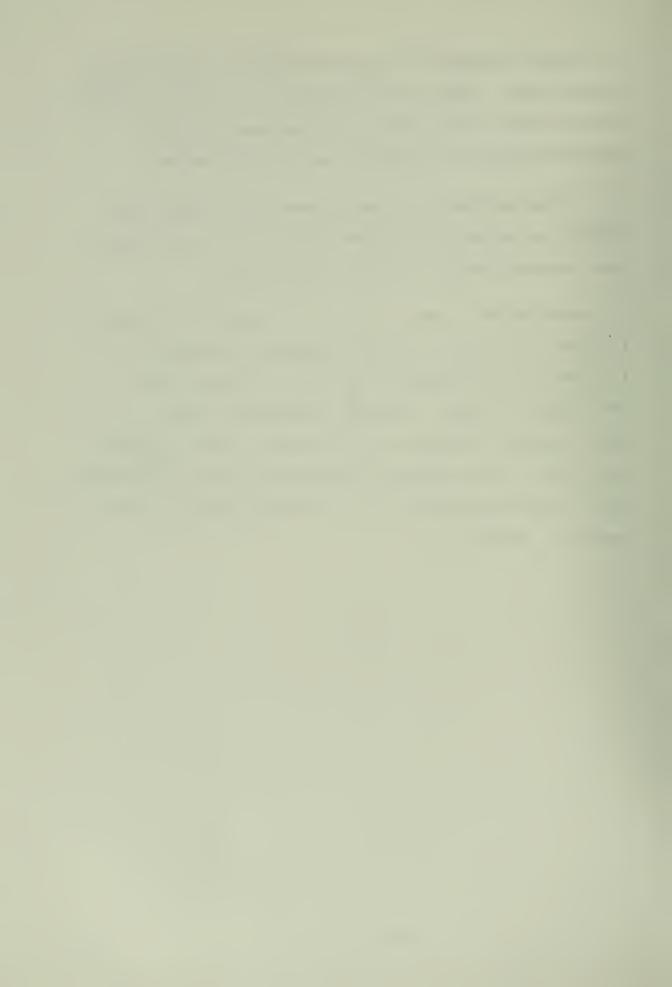
Although weld parameters such as speed, voltage, current, and wire feed rate were closely monitored, the machine could not duplicate the same weld, using the same parameters. Although an efficiency of .75 for the welding process was assumed, that efficiency shall be adjusted in Chapter 4 to conform to actual heat input as a function of experimental temperature profiles (Figure 3.4.1).

- 2. Although the recommended welding procedures were used during this experiment 18 (volts, amps, welding speed, wire feed rate), the heat input did not generate a very large temperature rise in the base plate (see Figure 3.4.1). Subsequently, the strains developed on the recorder were found to be of the same magnitude as the apparent strains needed to correct the strain gages for temperature compensation. Although the true strains graphed on Figures 3.4.2 through 3.4.5 look reasonable and compare favorably with trends observed in previous works, 22,25 it is the author's suggestion that future experimentation diverge from recommended parameters and use inputs geared to produce higher heat inputs and temperatures. One method would be to use slower nozzle traveling speed.
- 3. There should be increased development of experimental techniques in analyzing temperature and strains in



the region annexing the heat affected zone when welding fillet welds. Most of the distortions and large gradiants occur at this point, while the baseplate is little affected except for transient thermal influences.

- 4. It was assumed that temperatures and strains were uniform in the vertical plane and for that reason gages were attached only to the top of the plate.
- 5. Longitudinal strain ( £ x) was recorded and plotted (Figures 3.4.4 and 3.4.5) for comparative purposes; so it might be justified, at this point, to note that longitudinal strains dominated transverse strains at both locations monitored (1.5" and 4.0" from centerline). This factor will strongly influence the success of relying only on two dimensions (y and z) in the computer model tested in Chapter 4.



# 4.0 - COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF FILLET WELDED ALUMINUM ALLOY

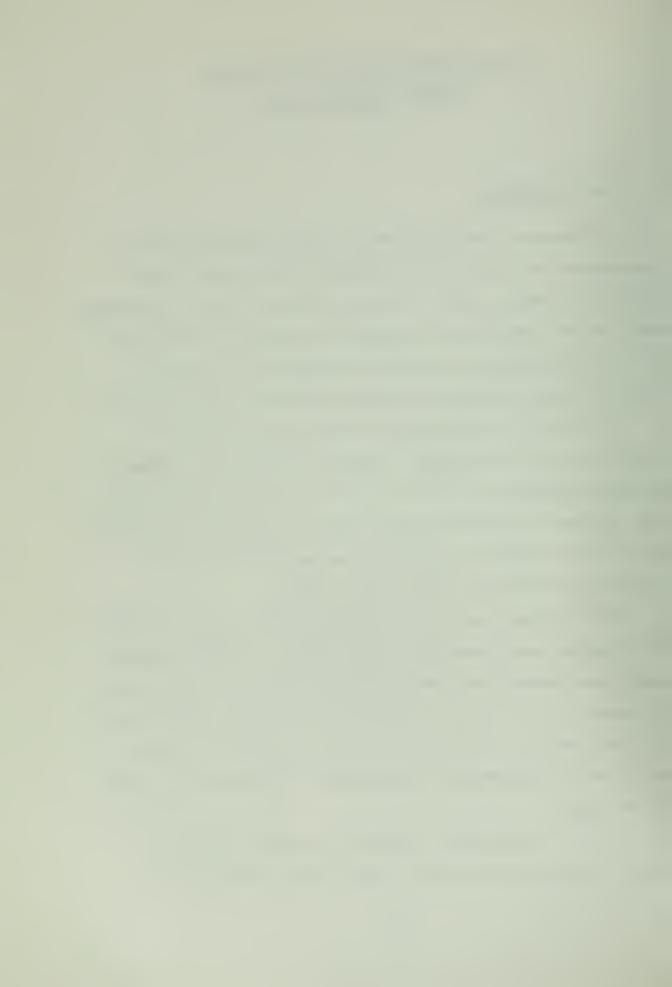
#### 4.1 - General

In Chapter 3 the experimental model generated timetemperature and time-strain histories for fillet welded
5052-H32 aluminum alloy. In this chapter, using a simulated
model of the experiment performed in Chapter 3, an elastoplastic finite-element computer program will be used to
examine thermal stresses and metal movement during welding.

It is not the objective of this work to describe details of the MIT program. This has already been done in several references. <sup>25</sup>, <sup>26</sup>, <sup>27</sup>, <sup>28</sup> It is the objective of this chapter to test the state-of-art of computer technology at MIT with respect to accuracy and ability of current software to simulate fillet type welding.

This program has been evaluated against bead-on-plate, butt joints, and flame heating with good agreement between analytical predictions and experimental data. The program, at present, is being evaluated against not only fillet welds (in this work) but girth welding of a cylindrical shell, and thermal stresses and longitudinal distortion of a built-up tee-beam.

In this chapter the comparative analysis shall be based on temperature, strain ( $\mathcal{E}_{_{\mathbf{V}}}$ ) history and residual



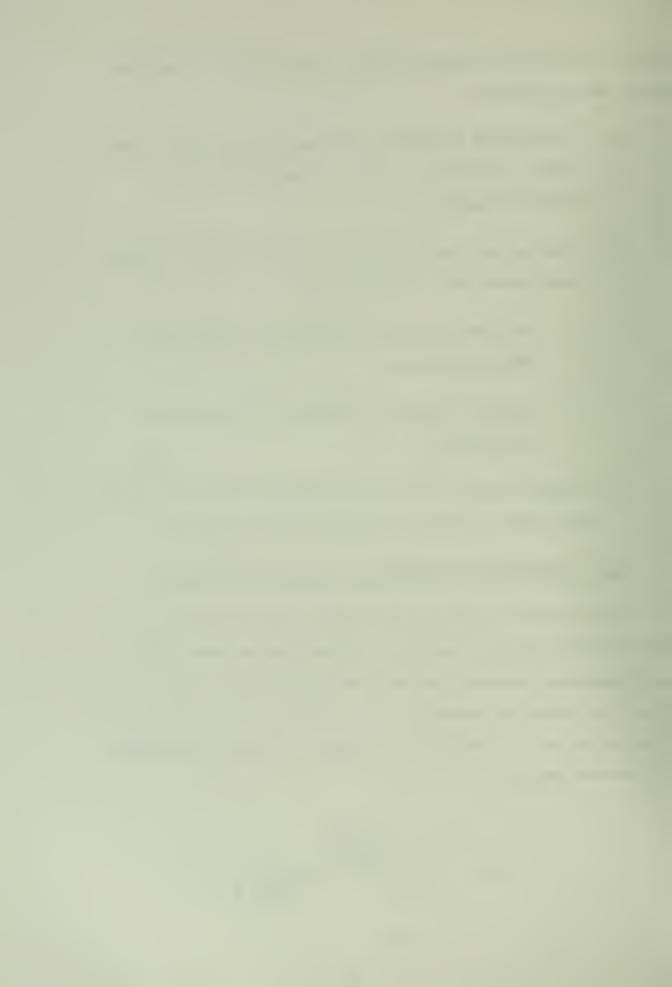
angular distortion (out-of-plane). The steps in analysis shall be as follows:

- a. Temperature analysis using approximate flat plate theory and inputs from the experimental test done in Chapter 3.
- b. Temperature analysis using the MIT finite element, two-dimensional, program with
  - constant property inputs as a function of temperature, and
  - 2. variable property inputs as a function of temperature.
- c. Thermal stress and metal movement evaluation using MIT finite element, two-dimensional, program.

#### 4.2 - Temperature Analysis by Analytical Solution

For relatively simple "flat plate" problems such as bead-on-plate and butt welding, investigators have found good agreement between observed and calculated results using the Rosenthal equation for a quick and easy analytical solution of temperature history. The basic equation is laid out below.

$$T = T_0 + \frac{q}{2\pi} e^{-\left(\frac{V_e W}{2k}\right)} K_0 \left(\frac{V_e}{2k}\right),$$



where

$$q = \frac{1}{t} \bigvee 0.24 \text{ V I},$$

$$r = \sqrt{w^2 + y^2},$$

$$w = x - V_e \cdot T_i, \text{ and}$$

K<sub>o</sub> is a modified Bessel function of second kind and zero order,

T is temperature (°F),

 $T_{o}$  is initial temperature ( $^{o}$  F),

V is voltage,

I is current (amps),

q is intensity of heat source,

k is thermal conductivity,

t is plate thickness (inches),

y is the welding coordinate perpendicular to weld path (x),

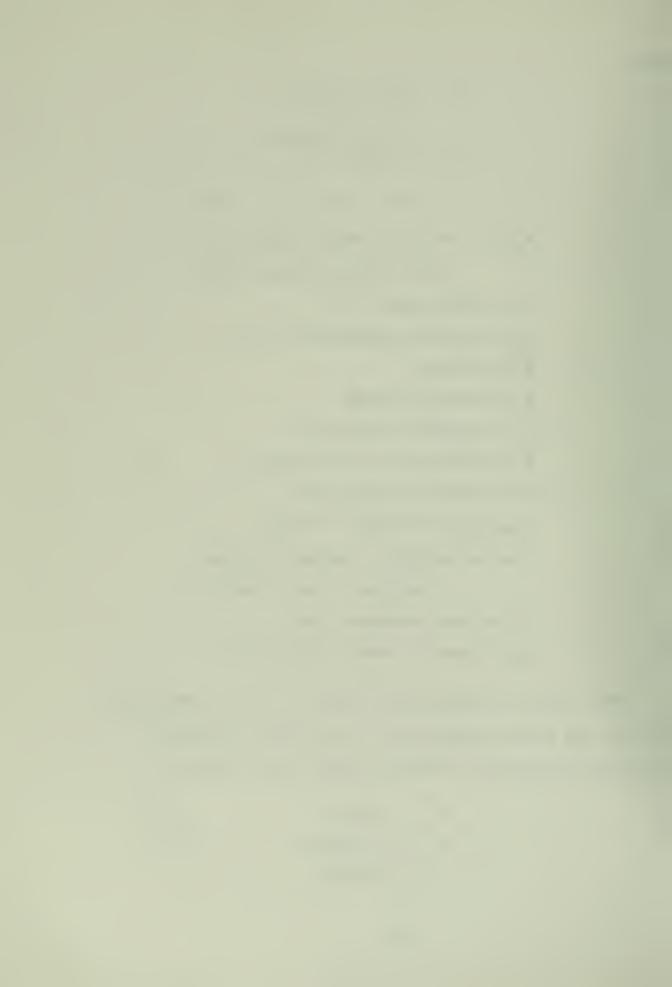
T<sub>i</sub> is time (seconds), and V<sub>e</sub> is welding speed (inch/second).

This form of analysis was chosen as a first approximation to the actual experiment. For entering arguments the values below were brought forward from Chapter 3.

t = .50 in.

V = 23 Volts

I = 270 amps



$$T_o = 78^\circ \text{ F}$$

$$Q = 75\% \text{ (reference 3, page 4-4)}$$

$$k = .185 \times 10^{-2} \frac{\text{BTU}}{\text{in sec}}$$

$$V_e = .3 \text{ in/sec}$$

Other input values required by the one-dimensional program were also brought forward from Chapter 3. They are shown below.

$$c_{p} = .23 \frac{BTU}{1b^{\circ} F}$$

$$f = .097 lb/in^{3}$$

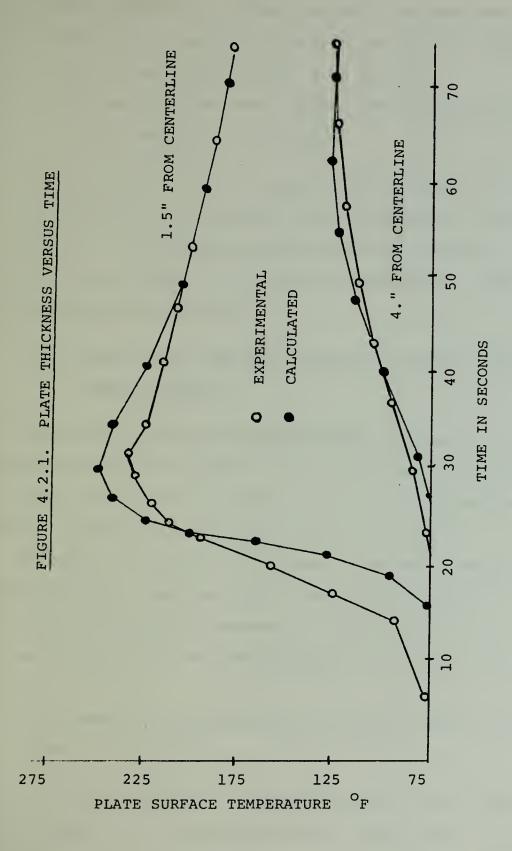
Also needed were

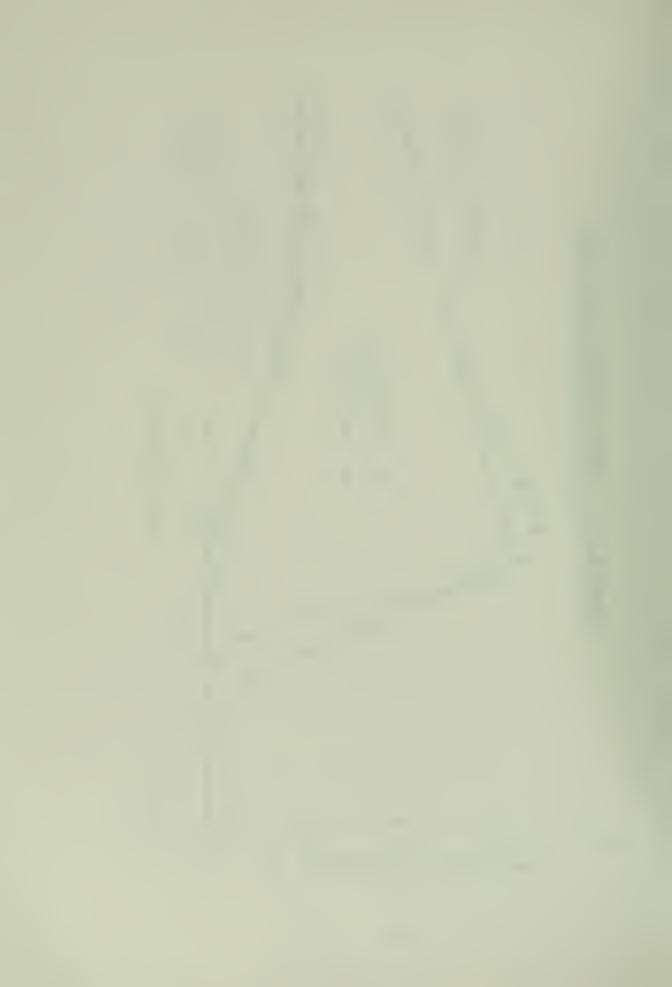
Thermal power = 
$$4.97$$
 BTU/sec,  
Heat intensity =  $9.94$  BTU/sec,  
Melting temperature =  $1120^{\circ}$  F

Figure 4.2.1 compares experimental results with the approximate flat plate temperature solution. Possible reasons for the large disparity are listed below.

- a. Material properties and yield criterion are not constant throughout the range of observed temperatures.
- b. A flat plate is too simplified for use as a model in approximating the temperature distribution around the fillet during welding.







- c. The analytical solution assumes a concentrated heat source when in actuality the heat is applied over a large area (about ¼ to ½ inch).
- d. The specimen has some finite size not accounted for by the analytical solution.

At this point, the analytical, one-dimensional, solution was dropped as a realistic tool in describing fillet welding. It is believed that one-dimensional programs, while useful as a guide for simplified geometrics, cannot handle complex arrangements.

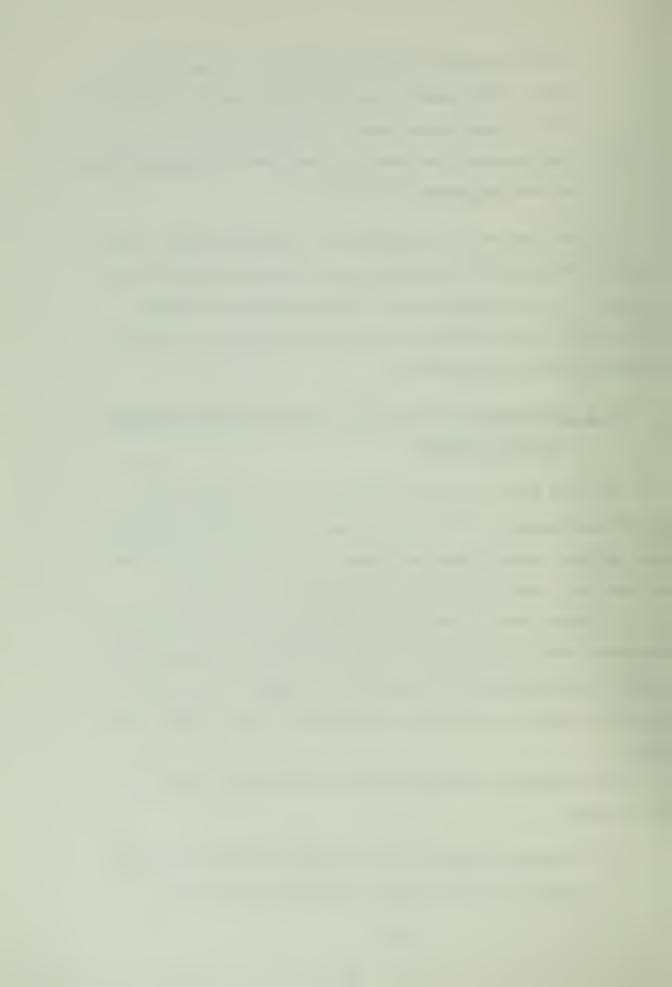
### 4.3 - Temperature Analysis by Two-Dimensional, Finite Element Program

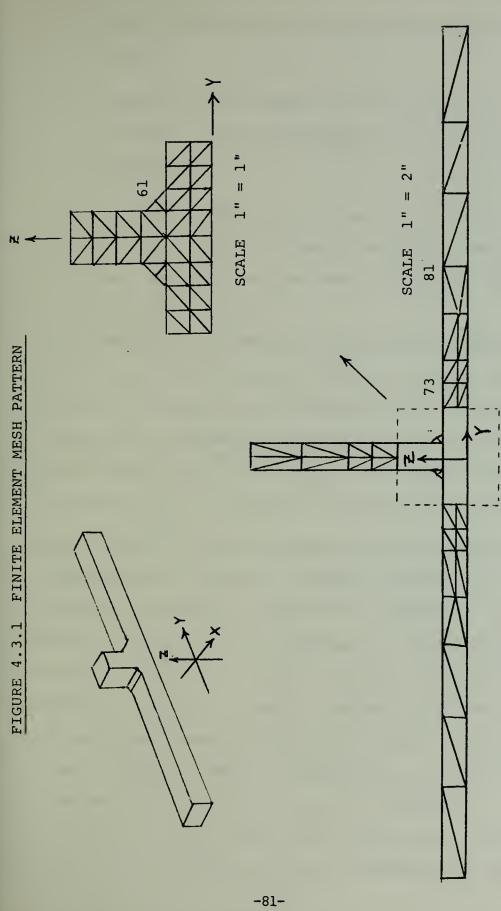
The MIT heat flow and thermal stress programs are formulated based on the generalized variational principle, and include temperature dependence of material properties, as well as, yield criterion and effects of bending.

A simple mesh pattern was chosen in order to reserve computer storage space for short time steps (1 second) and long time intervals (1200 seconds). Figure 4.3.1 shows the mesh pattern used for the analysis of the fillet weld area.

The boundary conditions used in the mesh model are as follows:

a. Elements located in the fillet area do not exist before the heat source (filler wire) pass.





REFERANCE APPENDIX D FOR NODE AND ELEMENT NUMBERING AND LOCATION

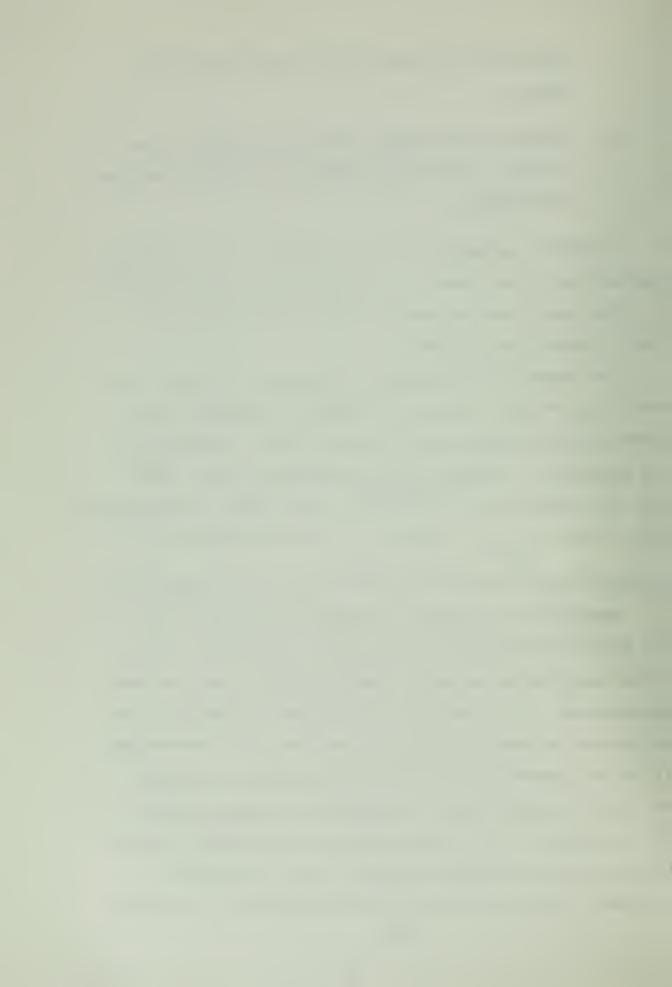


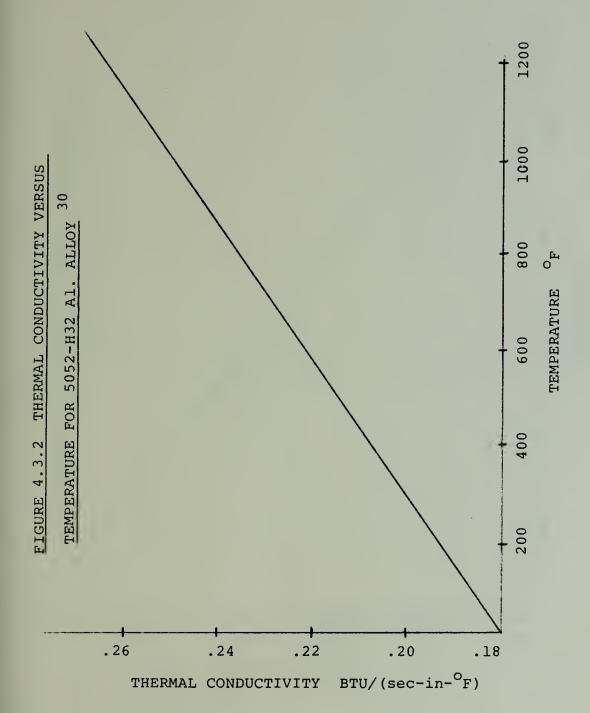
- b. Molten fillet elements have zero rigidity and stress.
- c. Elements in the upper tee are considered fixed in space. All other elements are free of external constraints.

A further assumption made is that for a first approximation heat input shall be a point source located at node 61. The heat input is constant over a .9 second time (the x coordinate) interval.

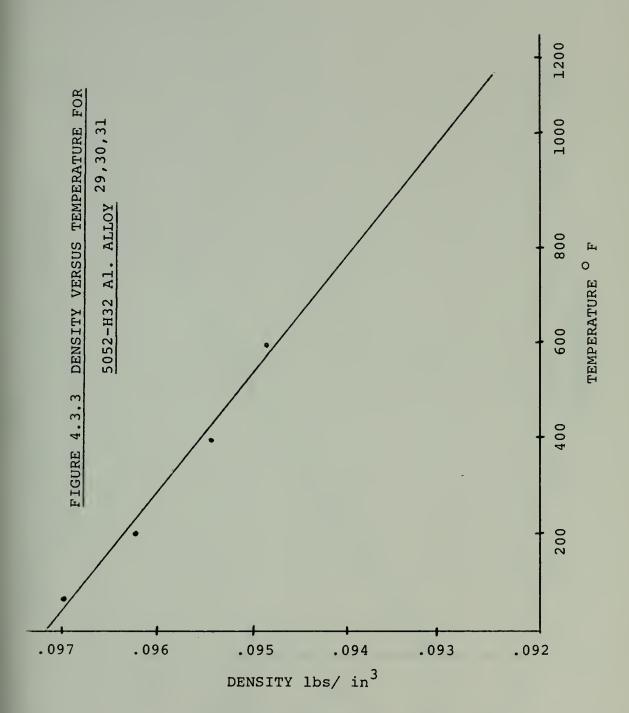
The temperature dependent properties of thermal conductivity, density and specific heat are plotted versus temperature on Figures 4.3.2 through 4.3.4, respectively. For simplicity, straight line approximations were made from the given data.  $^{29,30,31,32}$  Since thermal diffusivity ( $\Lambda$ ) equals  $\frac{k}{C_p}$ , Figure 4.3.5 was plotted with the calulated values of thermal diffusivity versus temperature.

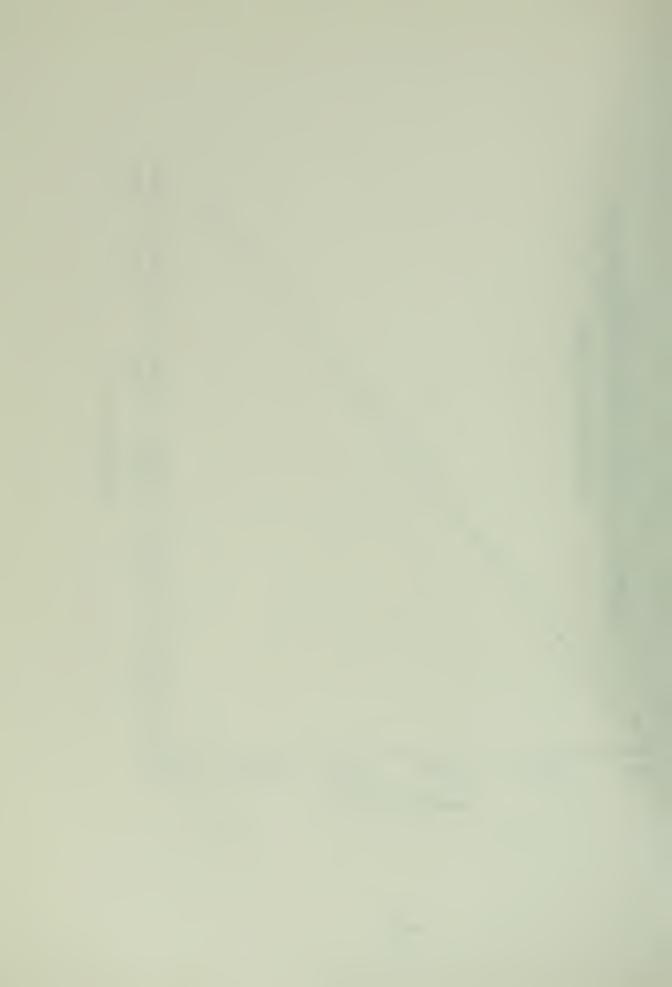
Reviewing the variance of thermal diffusivity over the expected temperature range  $(80^{\circ} \text{ F} - 1200^{\circ} \text{ F})$ , it is noted that  $\lambda$  varies by only a maximum of 3% from  $\lambda$  at room temperature. Since the change in thermal diffusivity can be equated to material property variance with temperature, it can be assumed that, for 5052-H32, material properties are nearly constant over the temperature range expected. This assumption is only applicable for temperature calculations and was tested successfully with a small test program. It was therefore assumed unnecessary to include

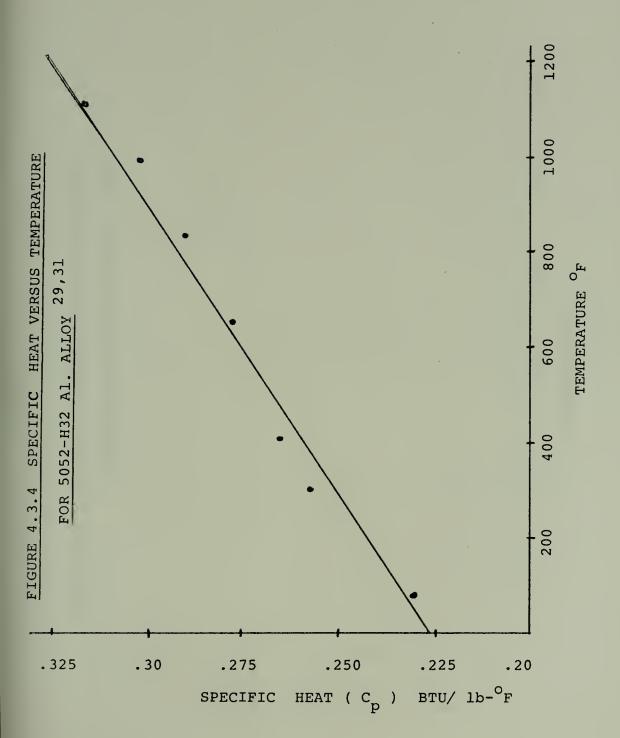


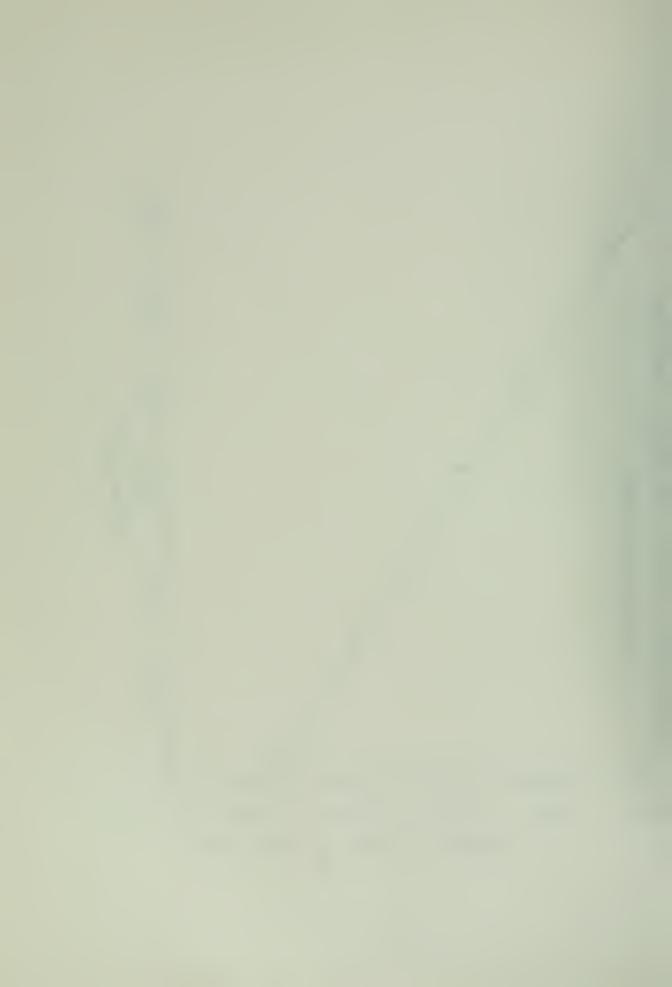


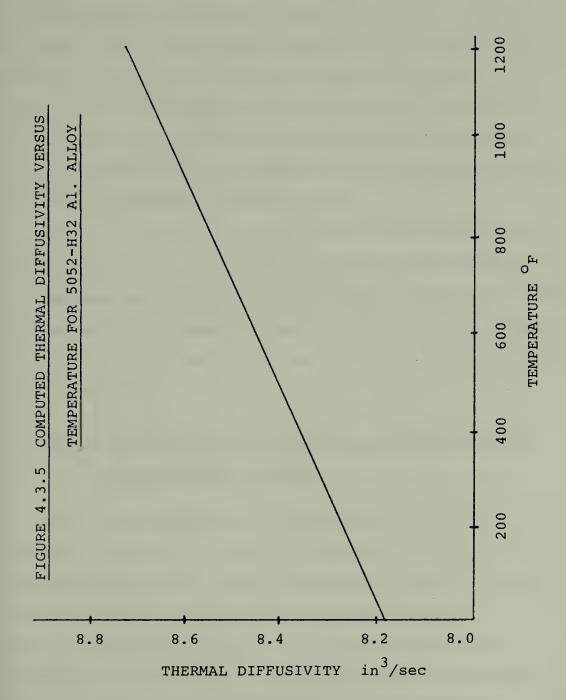














temperature functionals in the time-temperature finite element program.

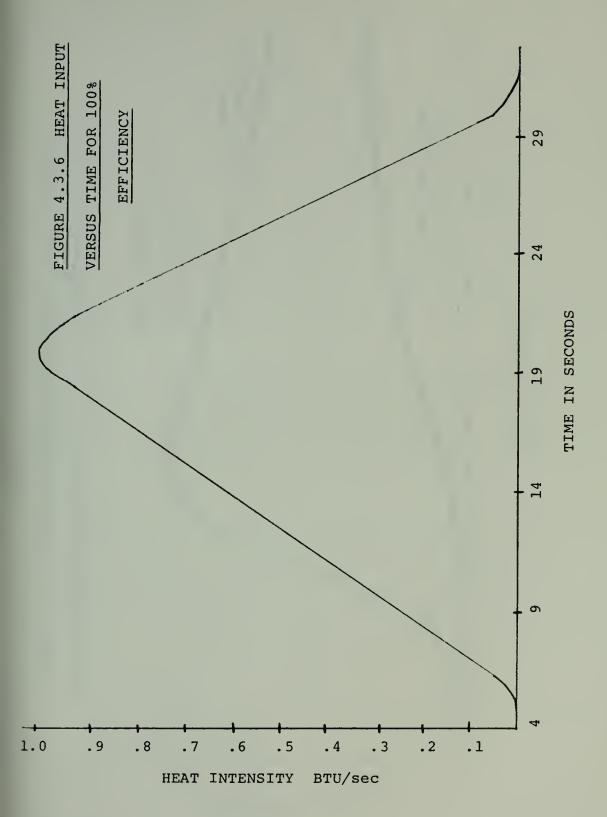
Since the one-dimensional program was unable to approximate a satisfactory analytic solution in Section 4.2, a trial and error method must now be adopted to "guess" the proper heat input history needed for the basic driving function in the finite element temperature program. With Figure 3.4.1 for guidance, and knowing that only one heat input profile will satisfy the experimental temperature results, Figure 4.3.6 was generated (after spending several weeks and over \$700 in computer time).

With all inputs now available for the finite element temperature program, a computer run can be made producing time-temperature histories of all nodes in the mesh. Figure 4.3.7 shows the agreement between experimental and theoretical results at 1.5 and 4.0 inches from the plate centerline (the y direction).

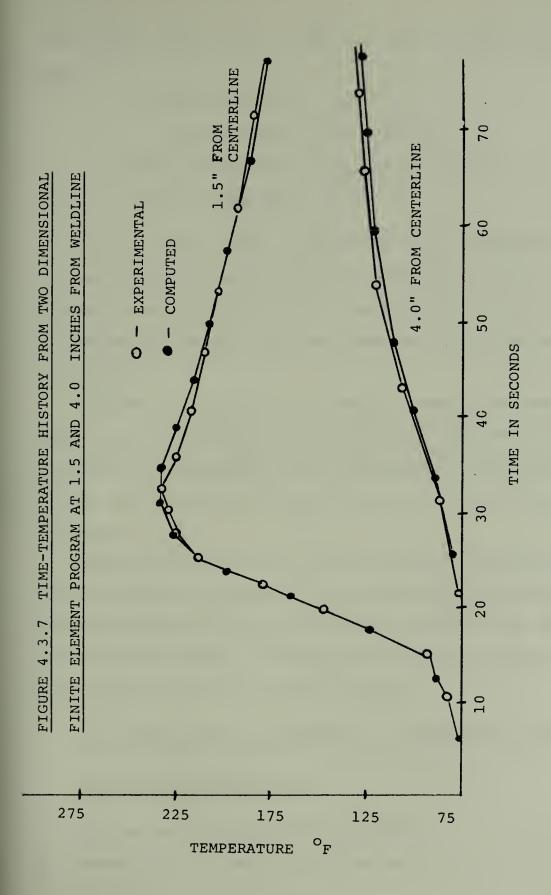
# 4.4 - Strain and Displacement by a Two-Dimensional Finite Element Program

With good agreement for temperature at the two specific locations observed (1.5 and 4.0 inches), it is a relatively straight-forward step to run the thermal strain and metal movement program. The same mesh pattern (Figure 4.3.1) is used in conjunction with the time-temperature history computed in Section 4.3. For a first approximation, the following inputs were assumed to be constant with all











temperatures (the author notes that this is hardly the case):

poisson's ratio = .3

yield stress = 30 X 10<sup>3</sup> psi

thermal expansion =  $12.8 \times 10^{-6}$  in/° F

strain hardening = 0.0

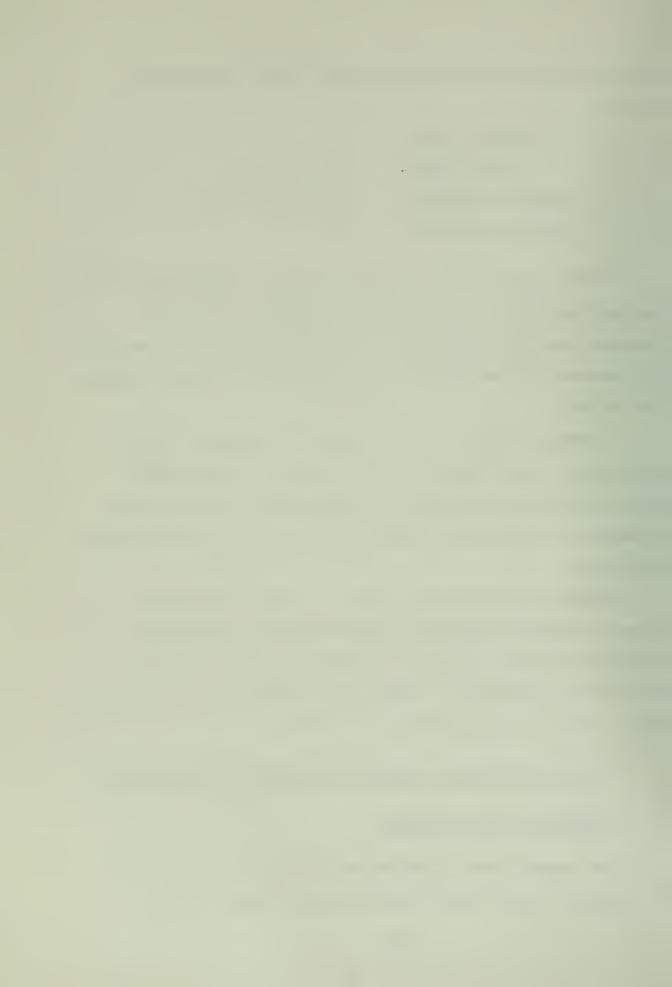
Only a single pass on side "A" of the "simulated" plate was calculated for an approximate comparison with the observed results in Chapter 3. The simulation only ran for 120 seconds but enough data was computed for a good general comparison.

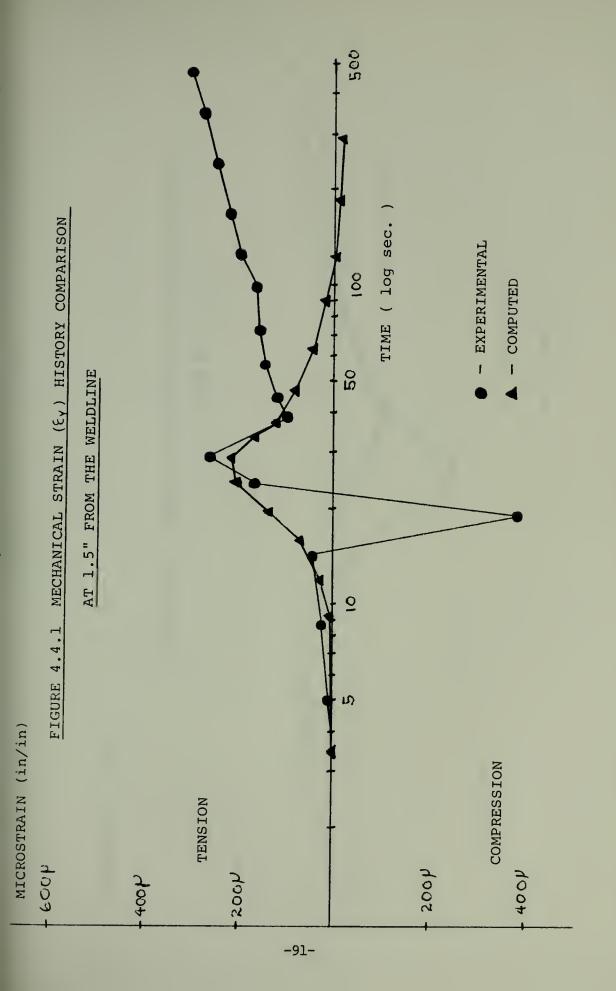
Appendix D shows initial computer constraints and a sample time step output of this program. Recorded for each node are temperature and displacement, and for each element are incremental strain ( $\varepsilon_y$ ,  $\varepsilon_z$ ,  $\chi_{yz}$ ) and plastic indicator.

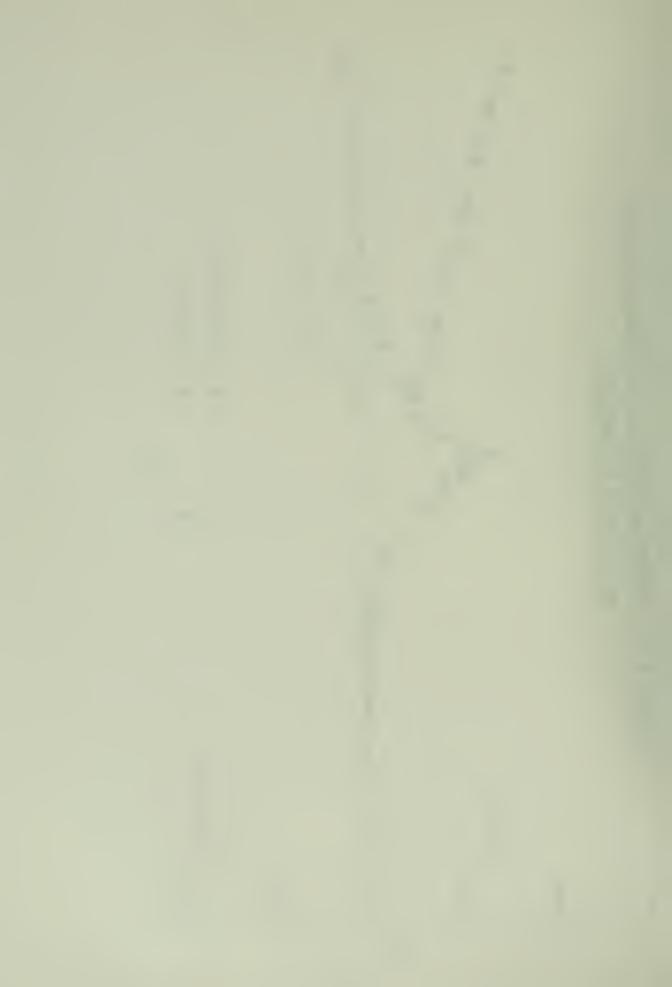
Figures 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 show a graphic comparison between observed (Chapter 3) and calculated transverse mechanical strains ( $\varepsilon_y$ ) at 1.5 and 4.0 inches from the transverse centerline. Figure 4.4.3 shows the time-displacement history of the plate end (node 87).

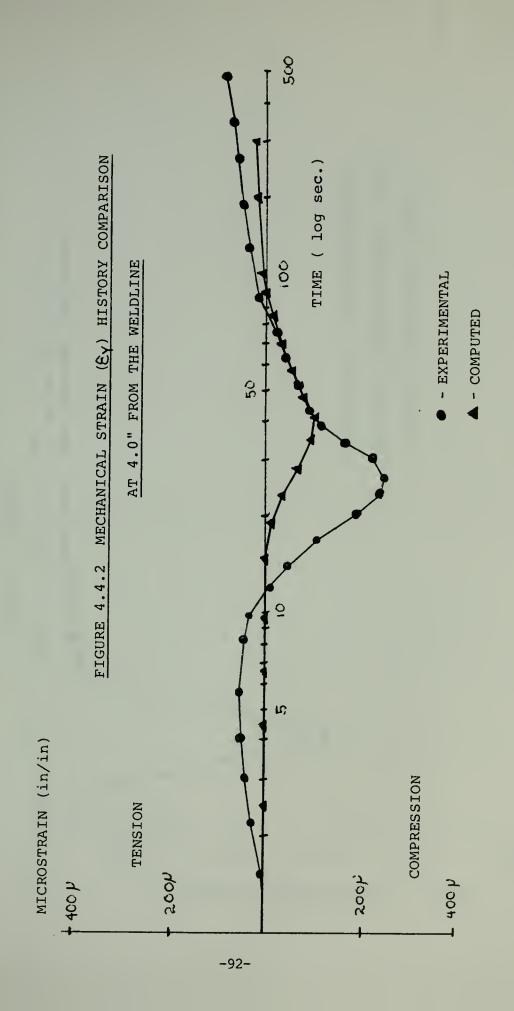
# 4.5 - Comparison of Computed and Experimental Results Temperature Distribution

The temperature distribution needed for the analysis of thermal stresses and distortions was calculated in

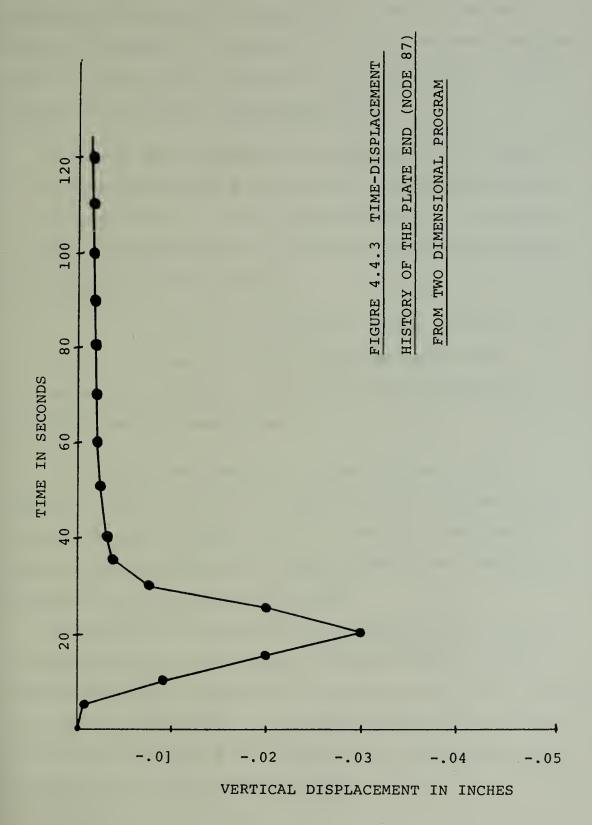


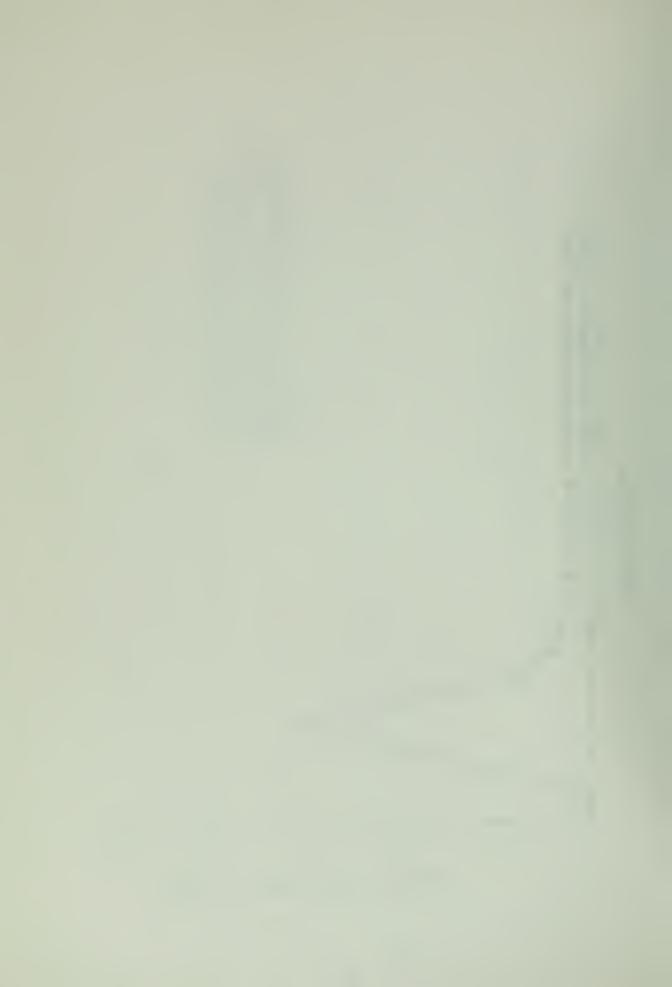










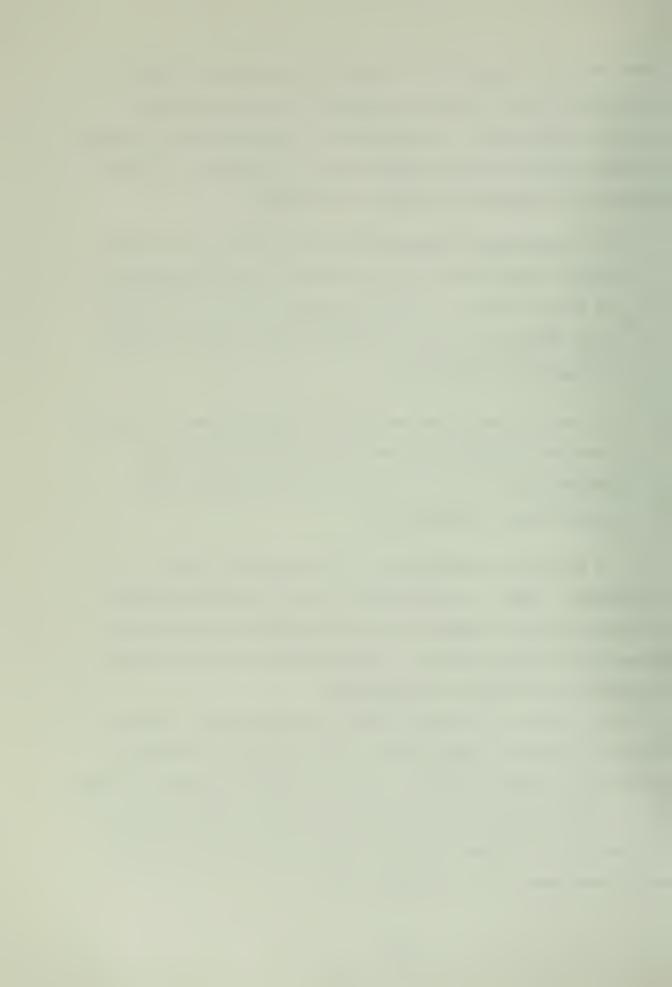


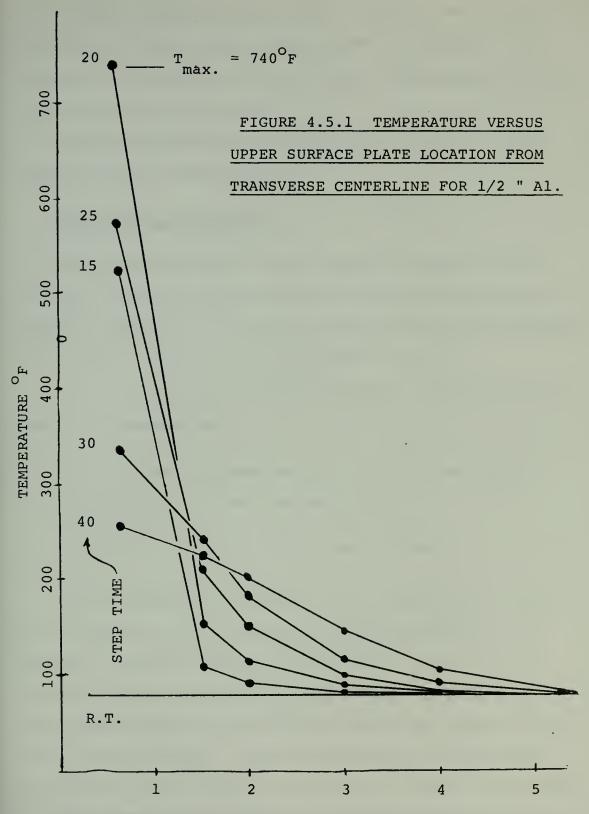
Section 4.3. Figure 4.3.7 shows good agreement between experimental and computed temperature histories at two specific locations. To examine the two-dimensional computer output a little closer, Figure 4.5.1 is provided. In this figure two significant errors are noticed -

- a. The maximum temperature at any point in the plate never exceeds 740° F and yet the liquidus temperature is about 1200° F. This means that there is no molten heat affected zone and not even enough heat generated to melt the filler wire.
- b. At all locations beyond five inches from the weldline the temperature never increases above room temperature (78° F). This is not consistent with experimental observations.

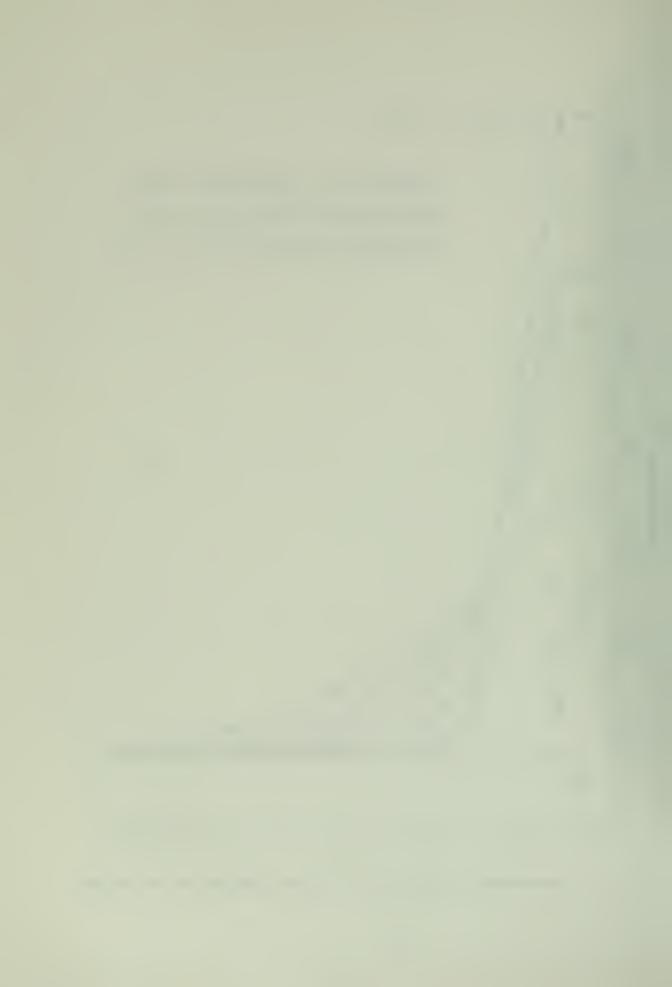
An immediate explanation to this problem is not available. There is serious doubt that the "derived" heat intensity history (Figure 4.3.6) is realistic and yet it gives good approximations of temperature at the two points observed, 1.5 inches and 4.0 inches.

The author is confident that the experimental data is realistic because several data runs were made, and temperature and strain readings were averaged over several gages. It is also believed that the assumed welding efficiency of .75 was high but when a lower value was tried, temperatures were even lower than in Figure 4.5.1.





TRANSVERSE LOCATION FROM PLATE CENTERLINE IN INCHES



A point source was used and in reality the heat is applied over a significant area around the nozzle. But when this was modeled into the system, temperatures again turned out to be very low.

Further research is necessary in the model of this complex shape in two-dimensions.

### Strain and Displacement

The two-dimensional finite element thermal stress and metal movement program did not produce satisfactory results. Figures 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 show significant disagreement between computed and experimental results.

It is the author's belief that this resulted from two inaccurate assumptions -

- a. That longitudinal strain,  $\mathcal{E}_{x}$ , did not play a significant role for the model, and
- b. That the plate was in plane stress.

If the figures in Chapter 3 for longitudinal strain,  $\mathcal{E}_{x}$ , (Figures 3.4.4 and 3.4.5) are superimposed on the computed transverse strains from Section 4.4, it can be seen that where experimental longitudinal strains are small, experimental and computed transverse strains ( $\mathcal{E}_{y}$ ) are in good agreement. Where experimental longitudinal strains are large, Figures 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 show that there is a wide divergence between experimental and computed transverse strains. This would indicate a strong coupling



relationship between longitudinal and transverse strains.

Displacements were not analyzed because of the poor results for temperature and strain found around the fillet area. Actual displacement histories are very sensitive to fillet conditions since most of the actual plate movement occurs in that area.

The author has two follow-up suggestions for the continuation of this analysis. Based on the observations discussed above, a model assuming plane strain should be attempted. If theory can substantiate experimental results, it will be shown that transverse and longitudinal strains will be related by poisson's ratio.

If this model fails, it will probably be due to the fact that the model is too simplified and three-dimensions will be necessary to correctly couple all the interacting influences. Due to the amount of time and resources left to the author, this study shall be postponed.



### APPENDIX A

## Analytical Extrapolation of Experimental Data Found in Chapter 2

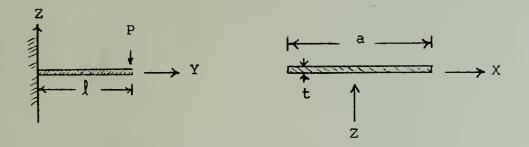
From previous thesis work <sup>8</sup> on out-of-plane angular distortion of aluminum alloy, Figure A.1 has been generated from single pass GMA welding. The experiment performed in Chapter 2 has been modeled as shown below, where

P is the line load (lbs.),

X is the coordinate direction of the weld,

t is the plate thickness (inches), and

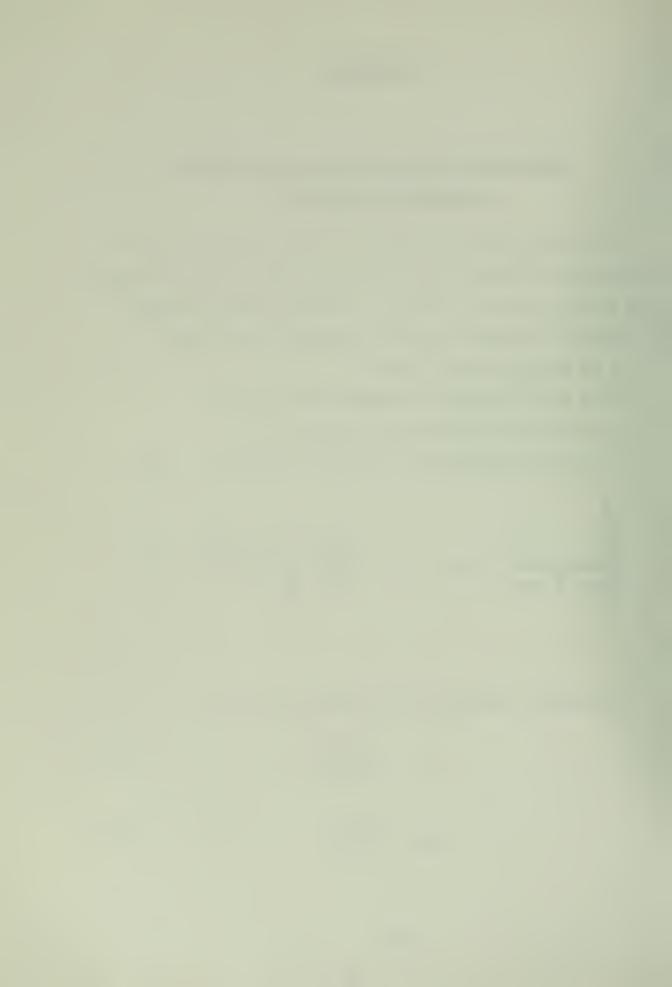
a is the longitudinal plate span (inches).

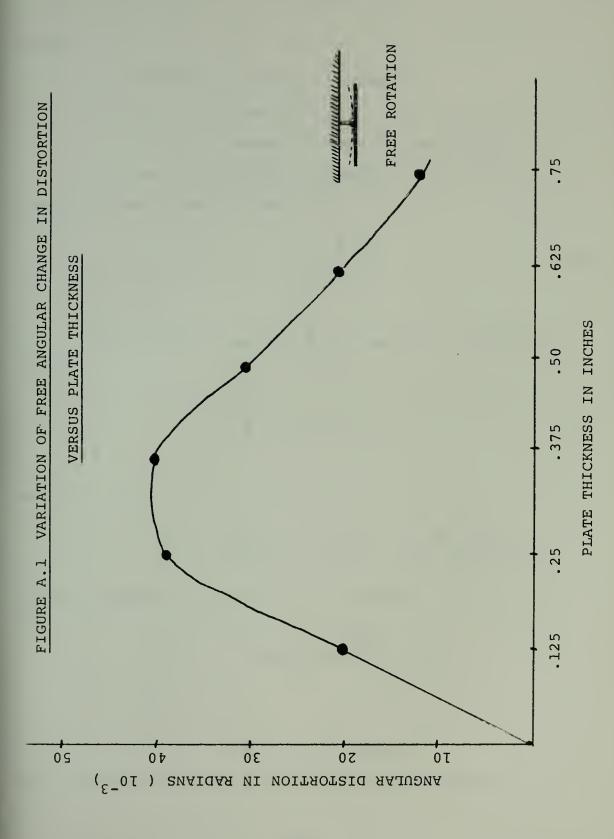


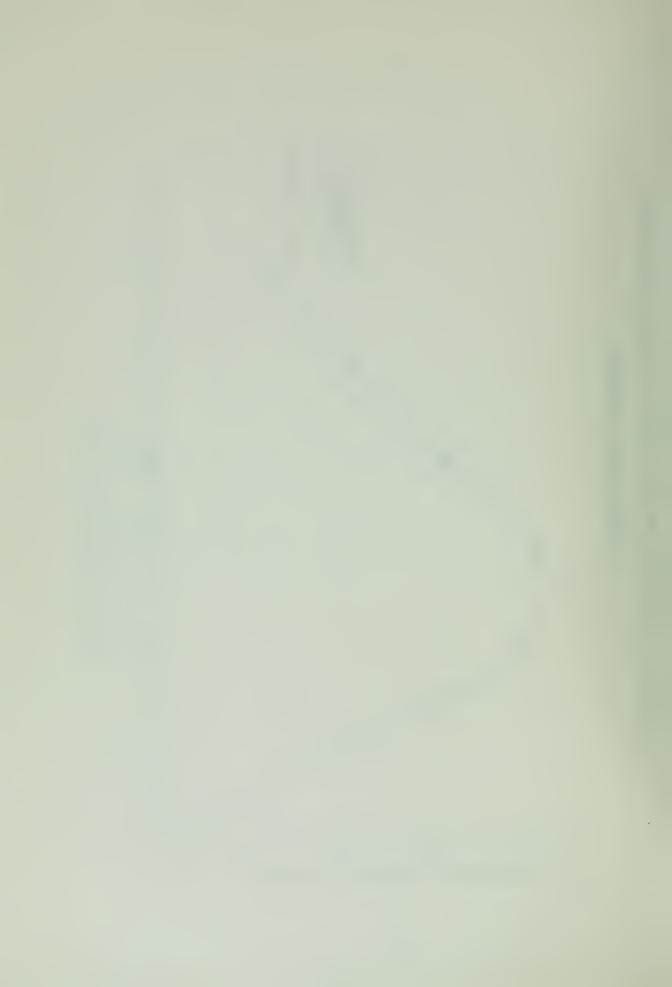
Examining reference 21, we find for Y = 1

$$\theta = \frac{2 p \ell^2}{E I_z}, \qquad (1)$$

$$I_{z} = \frac{t^{3}}{4} \qquad , \tag{2}$$







$$S = \frac{P + 1 - 3}{3 + 1} \qquad , \tag{3}$$

where

 $\theta$  is the angular rotation (radians),

E is Young's modulus (psi),

I is the second moment of area (inches<sup>4</sup>), and

is the displacement (inches).

Combining equations (1) and (2),

$$\theta = \frac{2 P ? 2}{E t^3 a} . \tag{4}$$

For all plates examined  $\mbox{\mbox{$\lambda$}}$  , E, and a are constant. Thus,

$$\theta = (K) \frac{P}{t^3}, \qquad (5)$$

where

$$K = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2 E} = 1.2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ in}^3/\text{lb}$$
.

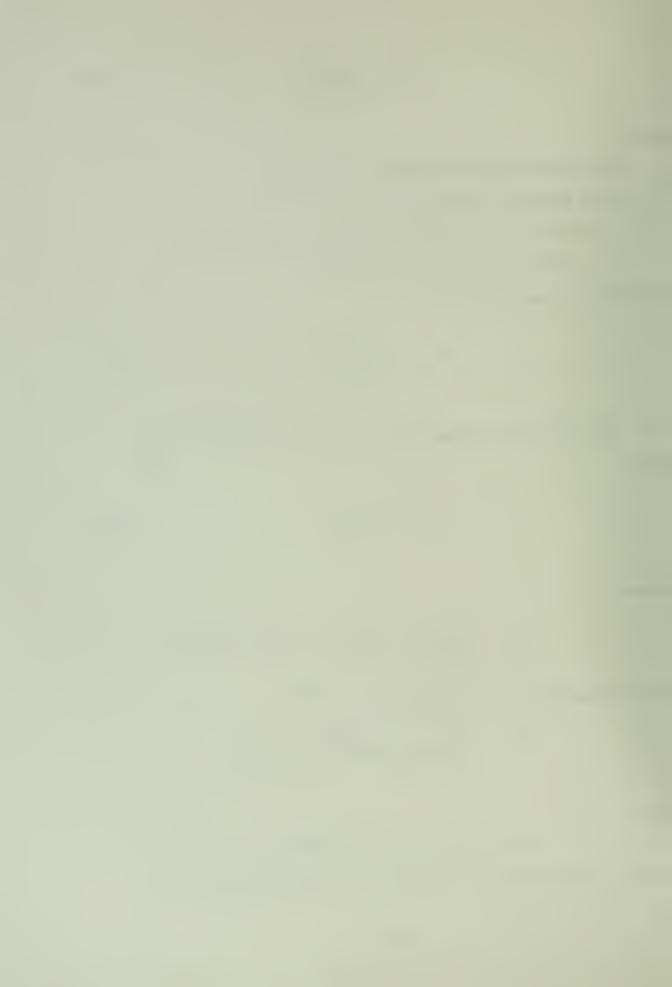
Solving equation (5) for  $\theta = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ ,

$$P^{\Theta} = \frac{t^3 (1 \times 10^{-3})}{\kappa} = \frac{t^3}{\kappa!}$$

where

$$K' = 1.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ in}^3/\text{lb.}$$

We can immediately see that the line load necessary to



produce a radian change is a single function of plate thickness cubed. By correlating with plate thickness, we can
find the line loads necessary to produce or remove the curves
found in Figure A.1.

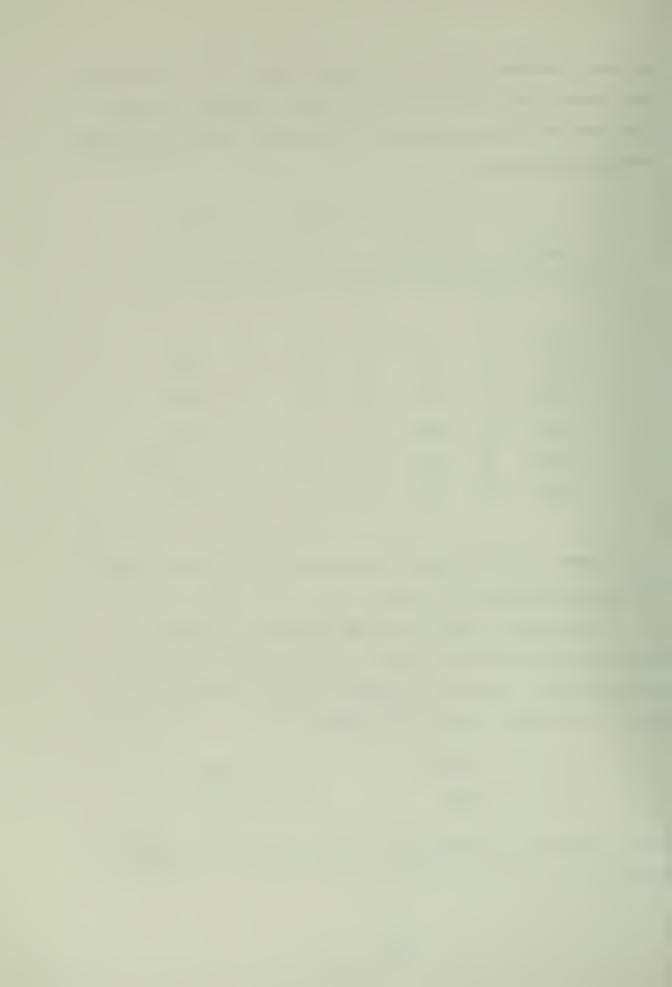
t	P	9 <sub>FREE</sub>	PFREE
inches	lbs/rad	rad	lbs
•125	1.3	21	27
•25	13	38	495
•375	44	40	1760
•50	104	30	3120
•625	203	20.5	4162
•75	352	12	4224

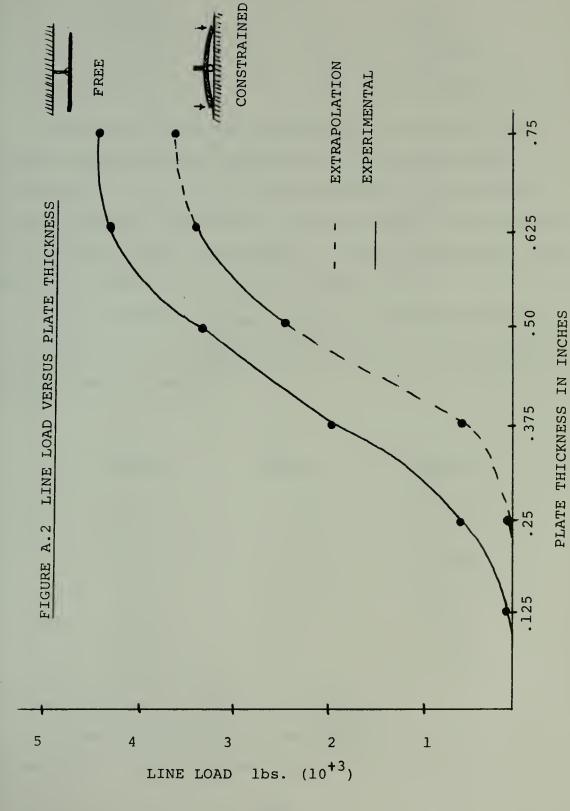
Figure A.2 plots line load necessary to remove angular distortion against plate thickness.

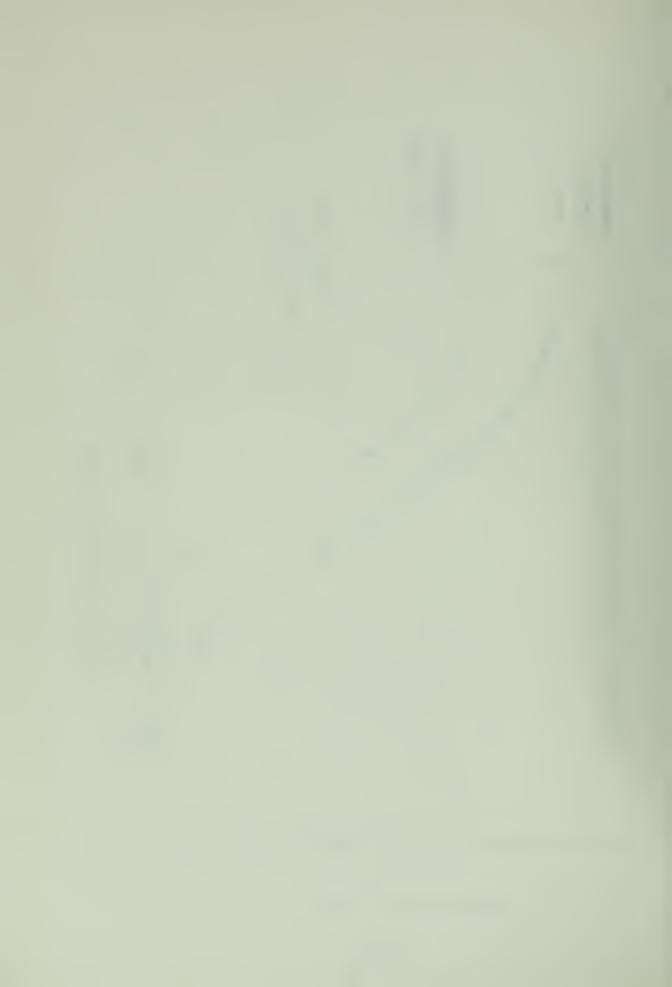
From Chapter 2 the values of deflection necessary to ideally remove the free angular distortion are known for 3/8" and 1/2". For the 3" flanged tee, the values can be taken from Figure 2.4.3. The values are

$$t = .375$$
"  $S = .085$ "  $t = .50$ "  $S = .19$ ".

Using equation (3), line load P can be found for the above values;







$$P = \frac{3 \delta E I_z}{\sqrt{3}}$$

<u>t</u>	P
.375"	480 lbs
.50 "	2525 lbs .

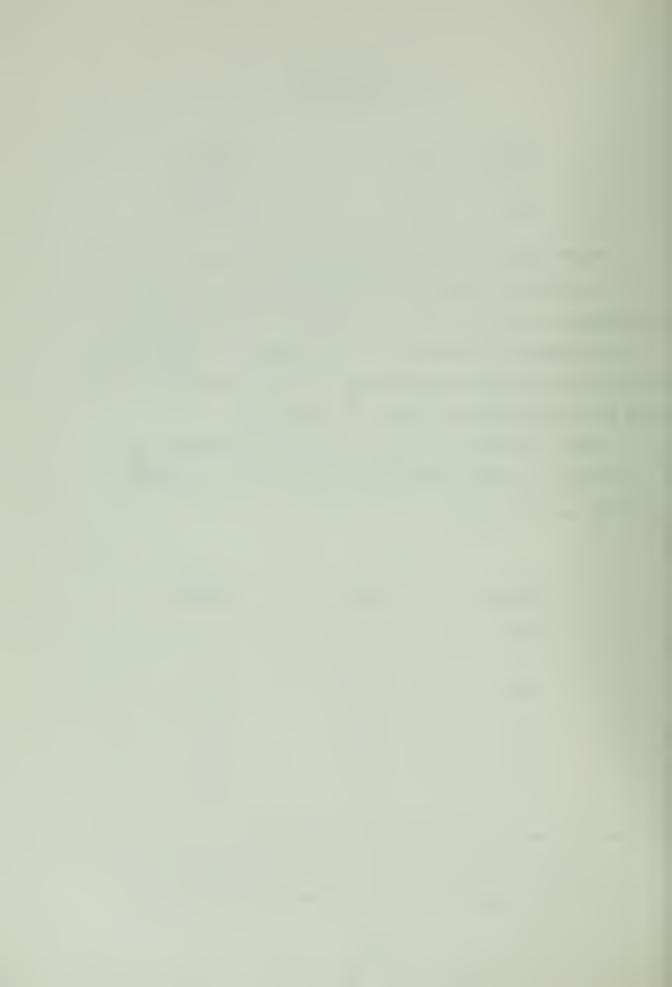
These points are now superimposed on Figure A.2 and, if the assumption can be made that for the same plate properties  $(a, \lambda, t, E)$  the curves will only be offset by the degree of constraint, we can contour a line through the two data points from Chapter 2 and in conjunction with the line generated from data in reference 8.

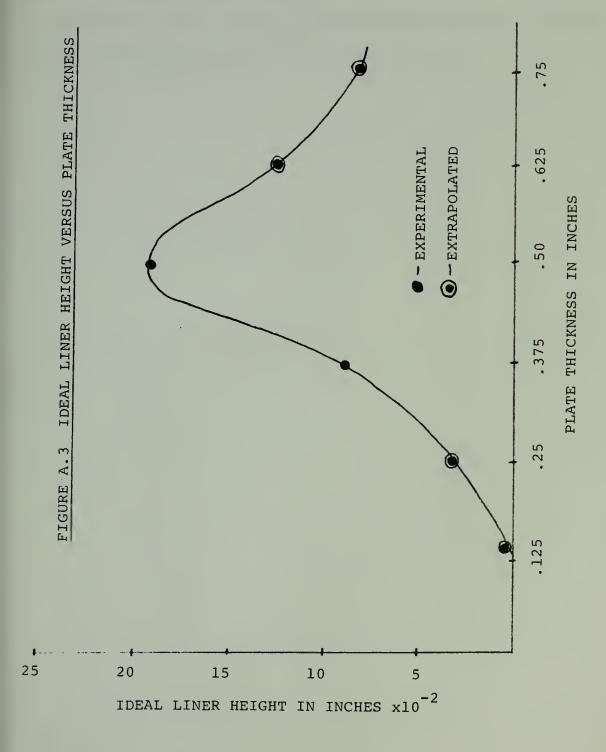
Using equation (3) again and the extrapolated line in Figure A.2, the deflections necessary for distortion removal can be found.

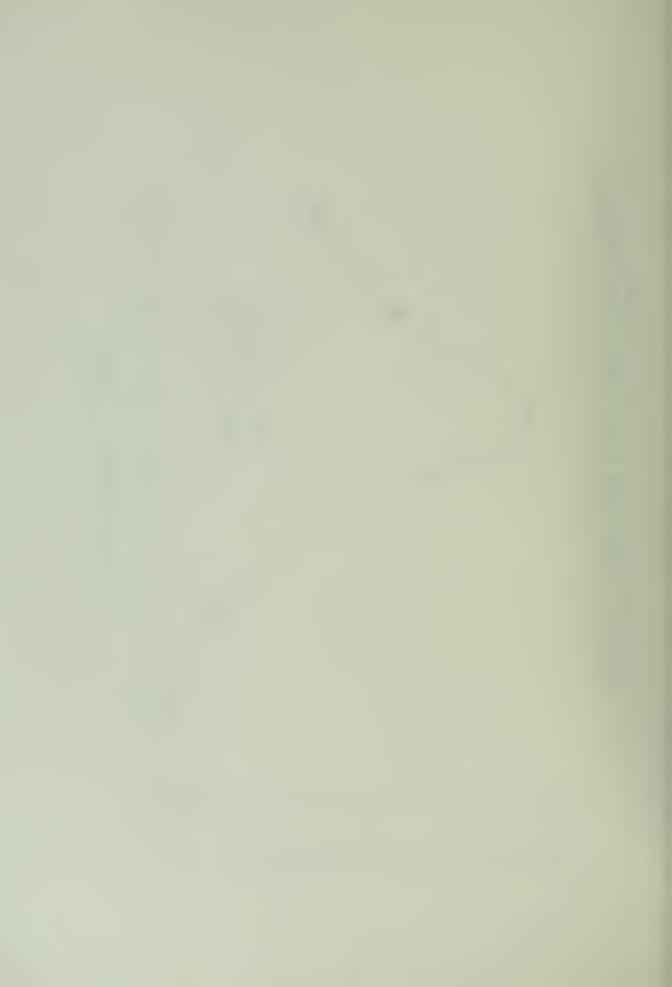
t	Р	
inches	<u>lbs</u>	inches
.125	0	0
• 25	50	.03
.375	480	.085
•50	2526	.19
.625	3300	.128
•75	3600	.081

Figure A.3 reflects this table graphically.

Figure A.3 reflects the two primary influences on prestraining aluminum plate to remove distortion. At







low thicknesses (1/4", 3/8") there is high angular distortion, and as thickness increases, the line load necessary to make a change of one radian goes up cubically. At large thicknesses (5/8", 3/4", and above) plate rigidity produces small distortions and the liner size decreases.



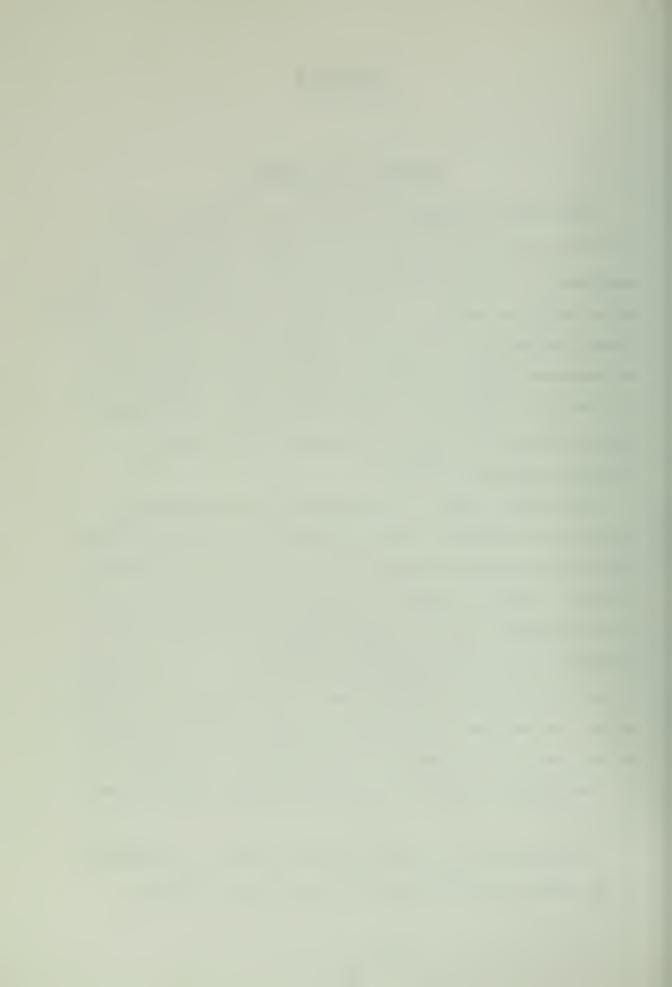
### APPENDIX B

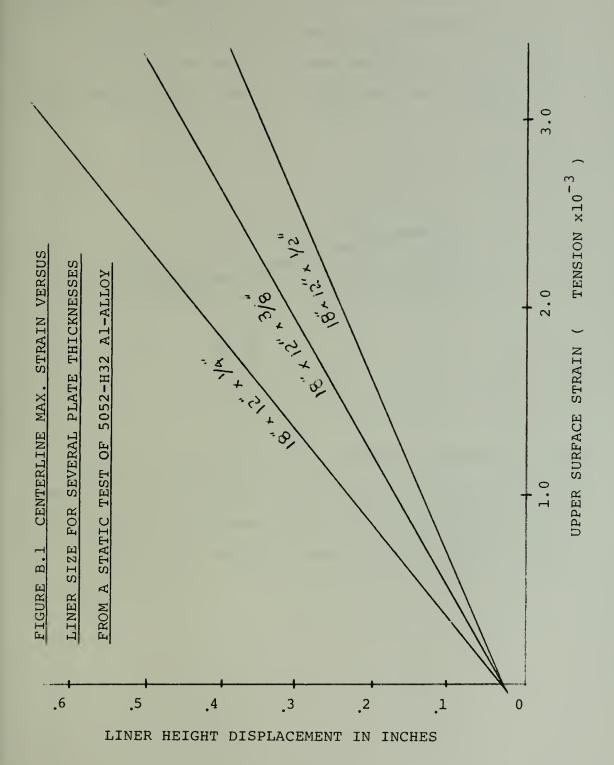
### Surface Strain Model

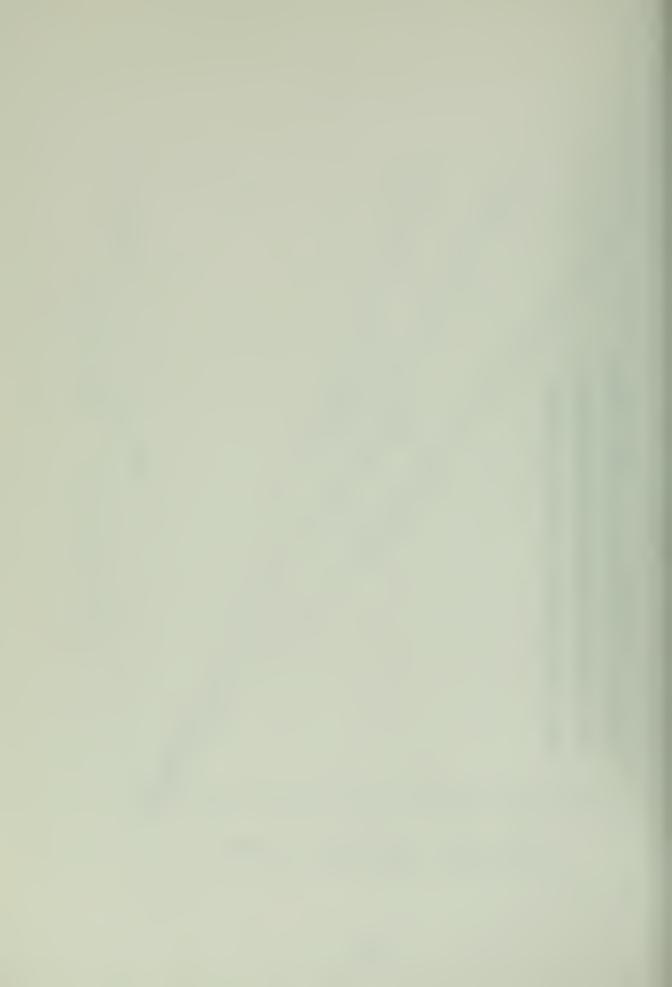
The data generated in Chapter 2 can only be useful if it is evaluated in terms of a common function that is applicable to many situations where the prestraining technique would be useful. Of the several possibilities (stress, strain, degree of constraint, loading) strain appeared to be the most useful. Experimentally, strain measurements are now well within the "state of the art". Theoretical strain models for many configurations can be found in numerous textbooks.

Therefore, under this assumption the prestraining technique of Chapter 2 was correlated by strain as a function of plate span and degree of prestrining (i.e., liner height). Several plates of various thicknesses and of the same description as the ½" plate used in Chapter 3 were equipped with strain gages and prestrained. As in Chapter 3, each plate had an 18" span and a 12" length. Mechanical strain was recorded at several locations on the transverse centerline of the plate and a curve fitted to predict the induced surface strain at the longitudinal center of the plate.

Figure B.l is the result of this study. By entering on the proper plate description line (plate size and

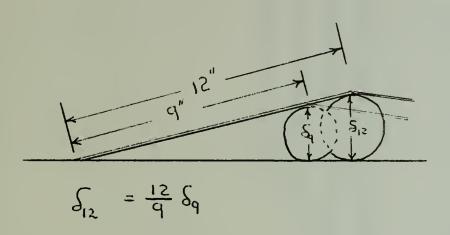




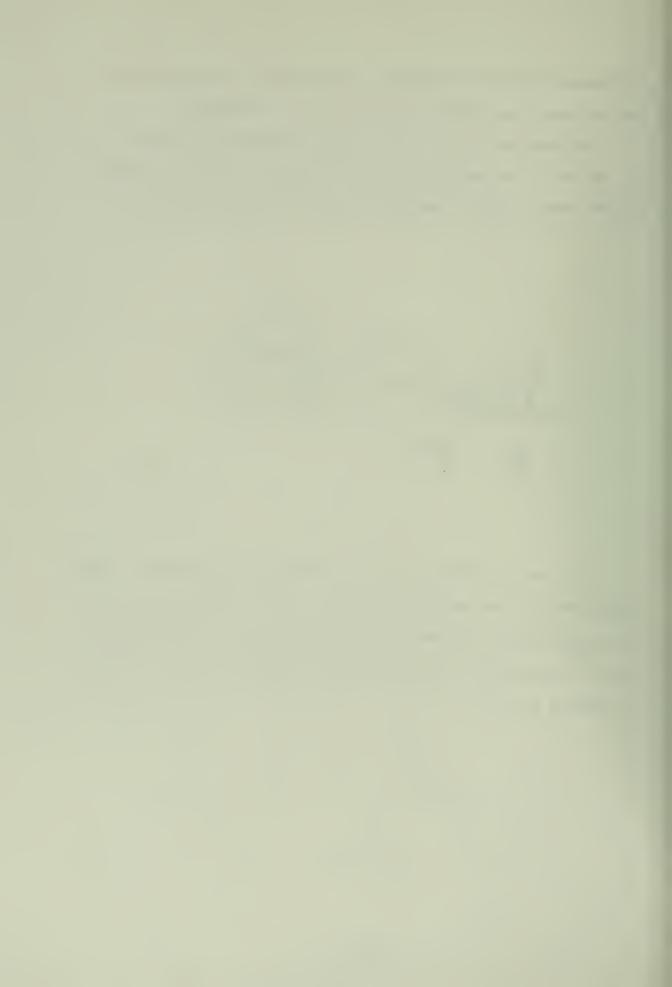


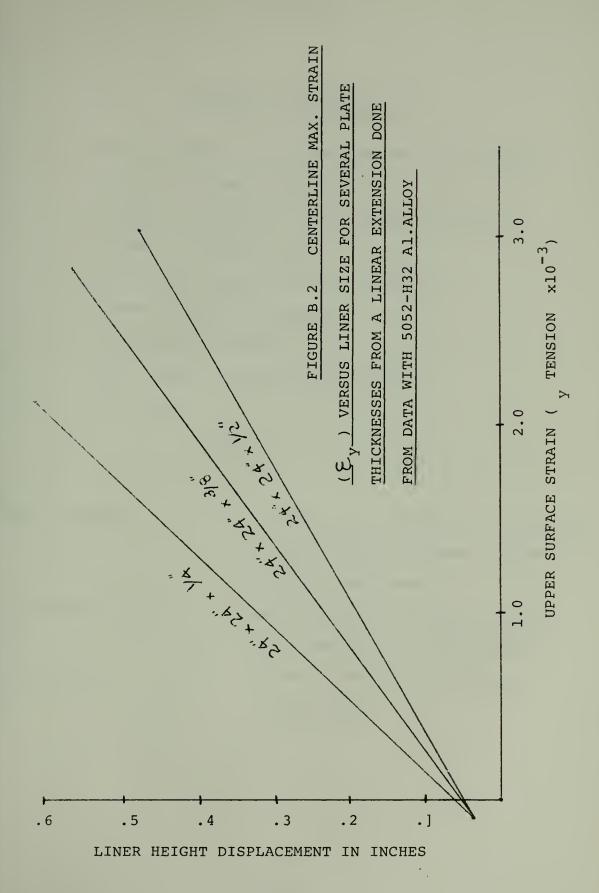
thickness) with the intended liner height, the maximum centerline (transverse) strain can be estimated.

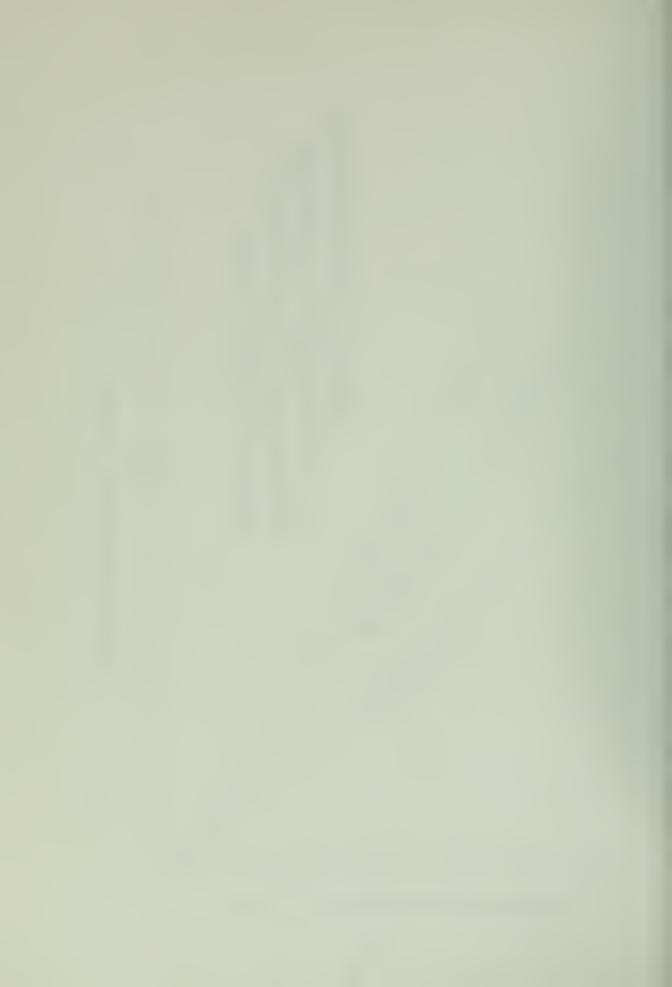
In Chapter 2 the plates used experimentally were 24" by 24". By assuming a linear approximation of liner height versus plate length, Figure B.2 was developed.



It can be assumed that the maximum longitudinal strain along the fillet weldline for 24" plate (length) will not be significantly different from the strains measured for the 12" plate when using the same roller diameter. Refer to Figure 1.3.1.







## APPENDIX C

## Symbols and Definitions

- Displacement, distortion, deflection (inches)

  Plate thickness (inches)

  Angular distortion out-of-plane (radians)

  Young's modulus (psi)

  Line Load along plate ends (lbs/in)

  Second moment of area (in4)

  Plate span (inches)

  One half of plate width (inches)

  Efficiency
- Liner (roller) A round bar placed under the plate

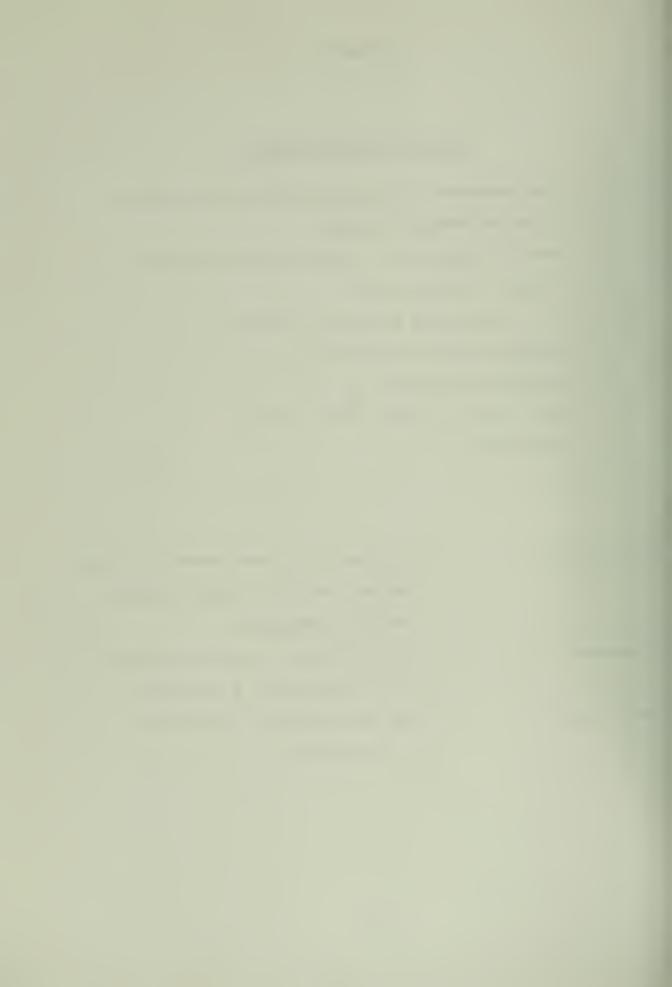
  before welding to cause induced

  reverse curvature.

  Transverse Perpendicular to weld direction
  for experiments, Y coordinate.

  Longitudinal In the direction of welding,

  X coordinate.



ELEMENT= 110 NUDE= 87

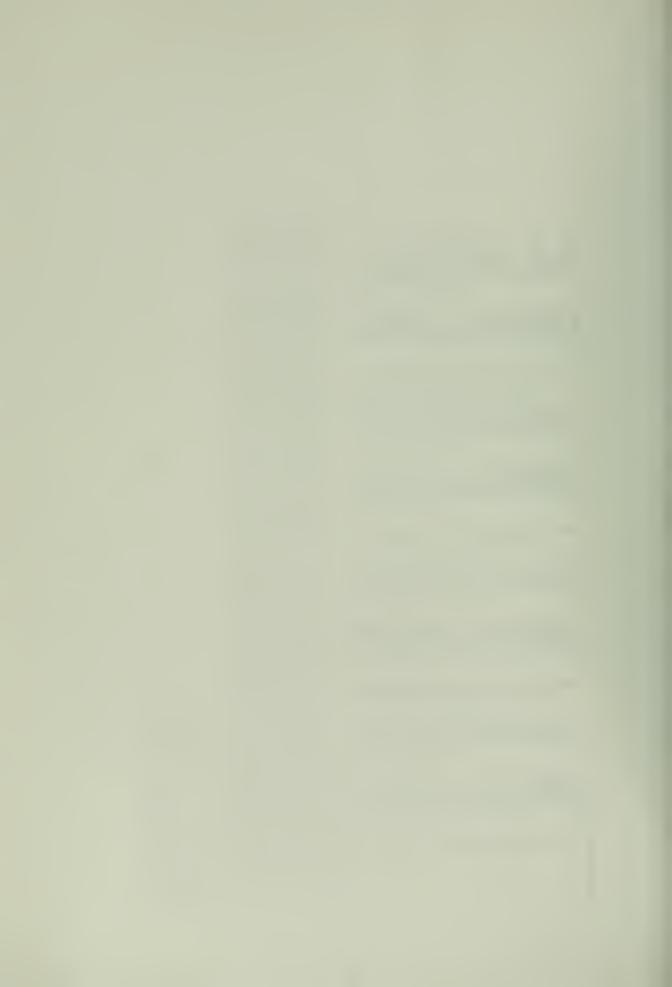
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1.000 121.000 TIME LIMIT= SCF.

INITIAL TEMPERATURE 78.000



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-0.2474E-02
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-0.3051E-C2
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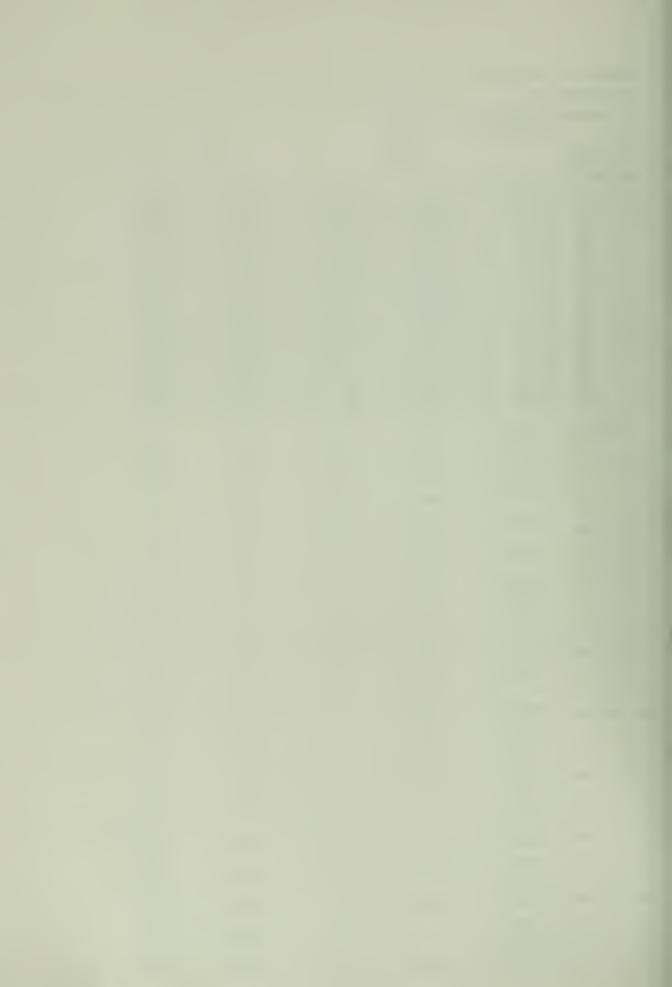
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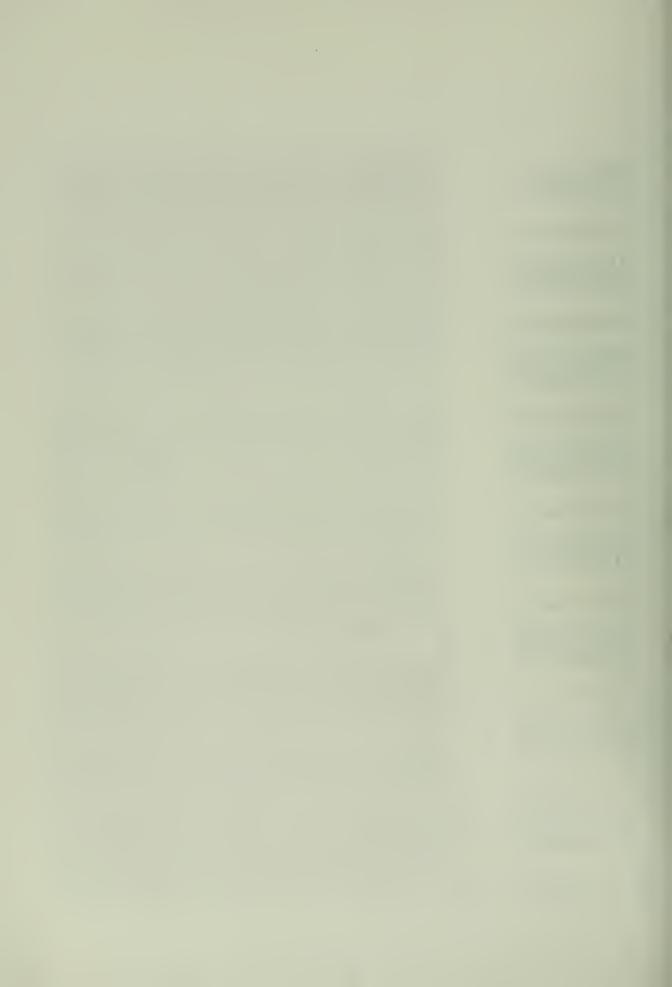
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-0.2846E-02
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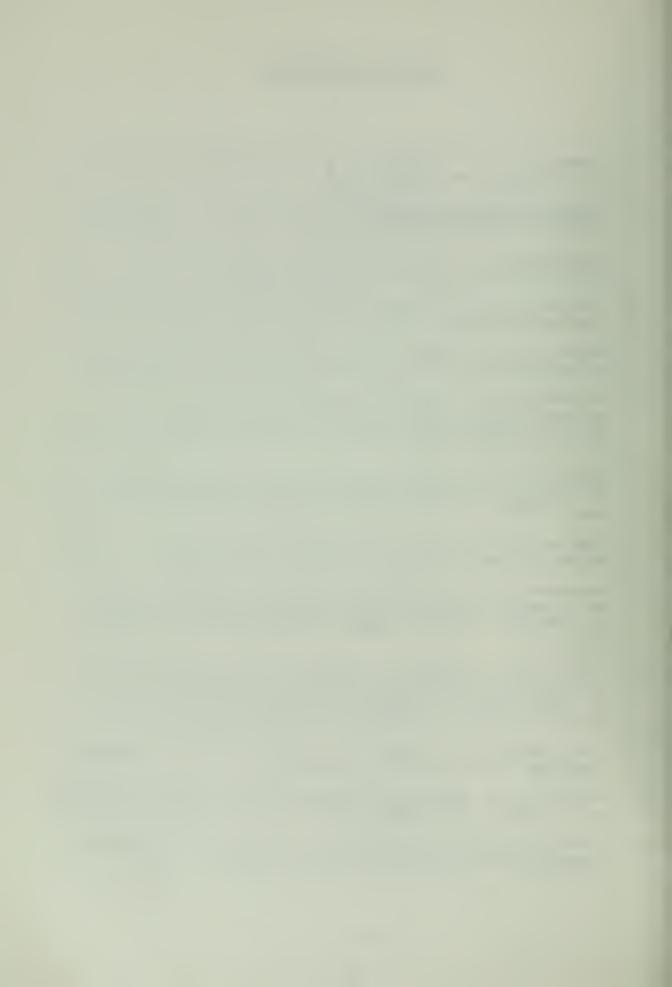


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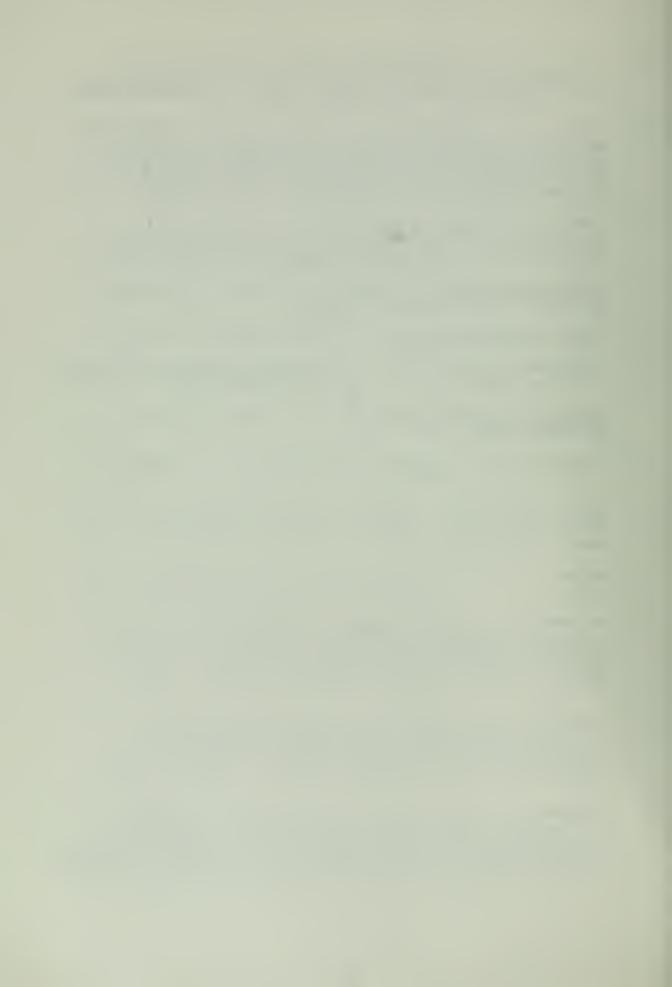


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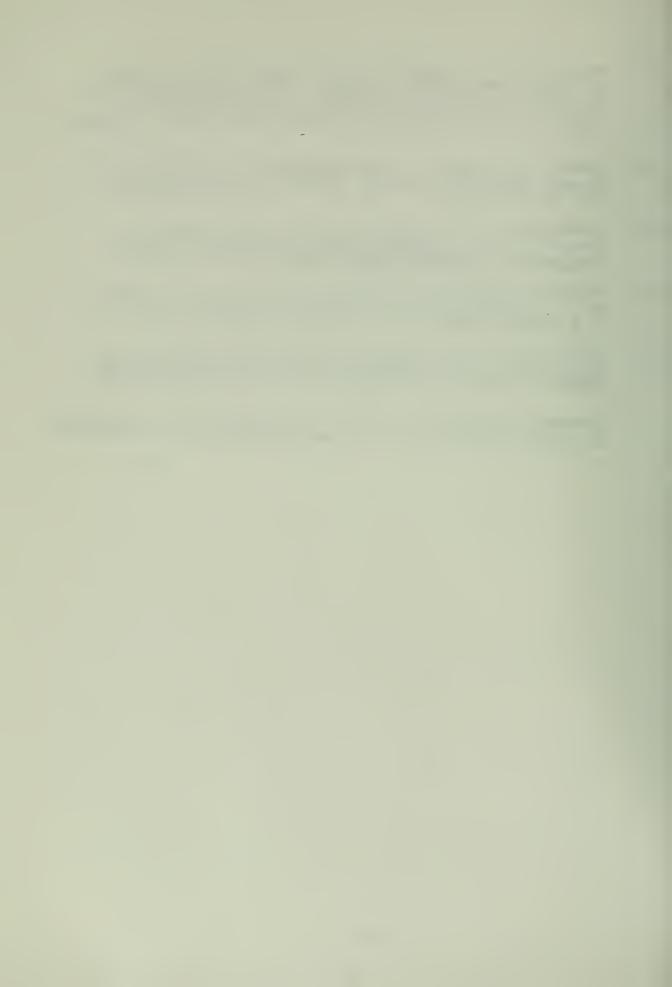
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